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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2014

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Wales & The Six Nations Page 40

LOUD BANG AS FIERCE WIND LIFTS ROOF – AND FIRE SERVICE RACES TO THE RESCUE!

Residents are evacuated from a block of flats

by TIM CHAPMAN

SEVENTEEN people were evacuated from Rowan Court in Barry in the early hours of Saturday, February 15, after gales ripped into the roof.

The drama took place at around 1am as 80 mph winds – and rain – began battering the south Wales coast.

The Fire Brigade and police arrived to escort residents to safety.

One resident, Mrs Elizabeth Curtis, told The GEM: "There was a loud bang on the roof in the night.

"A fascia board had come away in the winds during the day, and in the night a strong gust of wind had got in through the gap lifting the roof and flipping it back – that was the bang!

"I want to thank the Fire Brigade and the police who arrived so quickly."

The emergency services blocked off St Nicholas Road while the evacuation took place.

Rob Coleman, the Watch Manager for Blue Watch at Barry Fire Station, explained: "We got a call at about 1am and turned up to find one of the flats flooding. Water was coming through the ceiling and getting into the electrics.

"Water was also getting into the flats on either side through the ceilings.

"We noticed a 20 foot strip of fascia board had come away and the roof had peeled back.

"The police closed the road. Because of the winds, we were concerned the roof might come off."

The Fire Brigade then took the decision to evacuate the flats, liaising with the emergency planning department at the Vale Council. No one was injured, but a FESS vehicle – Fire and Emergency Support Service – also attended as a precaution.

The Fire Service were at the scene for two hours, and then had a meeting at 8am with a building inspector.

Mrs Curtis went to stay with her family over the weekend.

She added: "I returned to find water damage in two back bedrooms. Not all the residents were able to return as early as me.

"The environmental health department were advising people as to whether they could stay or not.

"Everybody has been so helpful – the heating engineer who came to my home the next day had been in Mothercare with his wife and baby when he responded to the call."

Earlier this week, workmen began securing the roof.

By Wednesday, most of the residents had been able to return to their

Barry Male Voice Choir has presented a cheque for £1,200 to the Velindre Cancer Centre. *(For the full story, turn to page 4).*

PICTURE BY SIMON ARSCOTT

Council acts quickly to remove needle found near school

A YOUNG father taking his children to school on Barry Island said he was shocked to see a needle on nearby waste land.

A council cleaner did act swiftly to remove the item.

Nigel Evans, a local businessman, said he saw the needle last Thursday.

"I was on my way to school with my children, who attend Barry Island Primary School, on February 13, when I was shocked to see a needle thrown on to waste land on Clive Road.

"There is often a problem with rubbish alongside this part of the street, but this was something I did not expect to see.

"The needle shown in the image (*see page 5*) was reported to a street cleaner.

"Thankfully, it was removed later in the day.

"I hope that it was a one-off, and will not be something that will become a problem with poor management of the waste land along Clive Road."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

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Readers' Letters

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Demolishing town history

MANY people are probably not aware that as part of Network Rail's plans to bring Platform 3 back into use at Broad Street train station it also means the demolition of a part of our town's history.

I am talking about Barry signal box. A Type 2 Barry Railway box stood in our town for the past 118 years, which somehow has not received any sort of listed status; unlike the Aberthaw box, which is also a Barry railway type 2 box, that has a grade 2 listed status. Barry signal box signalled trains though Barry right through the very peak of the railway in Barry.

Yet Network Rail are going to just reduce it to nothing in the coming weeks.

I find it disgusting that a big part of Barry railway, which helped make Barry the town it is today, is just going to be recklessly knocked to the ground.

Christopher Mackay, Barry.

Helping hand for nans and gramps!

IT'S Care & Repair week (February 17-21) and we at Care & Repair Cymru, have a simple message for older homeowners up and down Wales, *if you are worried about living in poor housing, we can help you*.

Many thousands of older people face housing-related difficulties every day, ranging from serious disrepair, dangerous electrics and leaking roofs. Thousands more can't get around their homes, up and down stairs or use basic facilities, such as toilets and baths.

During the winter months, Government figures show that thousands more are hospitalised, or even die, because they live in cold homes – and are too afraid to turn on the heating, because of the cost.

Last year, we helped almost 30,000 older people with their housing problems. Most of the people we help are aged over 60 and their average age is 75. 10 per cent of the people we help are over 90. Last year, 20 out of our 22 agencies helped people aged 100 years old or more.

Now more than ever, our services are important, not only because they help improve people's quality of life, by keeping them safe, warm and independent, but also because they keep them away from places they don't want to be – ambulances, hospitals, GP surgeries and residential care homes.

Telephone 0300 111 3333 local rate, anywhere in Wales to be connected to your local Care & Repair Agency, or you can go to www.careandrepair.org.uk for more information about Care & Repair.

Chris Jones, Cardiff
(Chief Executive Care & Repair Cymru)

Cancer support group's thanks

THE Penarth fundraising committee for Cancer Research UK would like to thank everyone who came to the spring fair and helped us to raise £511.

Our next event is the annual Big Breakfast and table top sale in All Saints Church Hall on Saturday March 15. The doors open at 9.15am and admission is free. To book a table at £5, please call Ann on 02920 350072.

Jenny Brooks
(Penarth Fundraising Committee Cancer Research UK)

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'PLANNED COUNCIL SHAKE-UP COULD SAVE £11m A YEAR'

LOCAL government reorganisation seems to have captured the interest of the two main political parties - I wonder why?

Have you signed the Conservatives' petition to Save the Vale (does that include urban areas, I wonder) or helped Labour councillors to lobby and influence their friends running the Welsh Government?

The overwhelming view of public statements by councillors is to leave us alone – we're doing a great job. Even the leader of the opposition claims VoG provides excellent services that are envied by others – 47 VoG councillors cost us about £1m annually.

I calculate a merger with Bridgend would mean 36 seats for VoG councillors and, based on average payments, that would cost about £780k. However, a Cardiff merger is likely to involve only 20 seats, at a cost of about £435k annually – a saving of around 56 per cent on councillor payments.

Just compare us with Scotland, or even Birmingham – we are over-represented and it costs a lot of money! Option three in the Williams report (10 local authorities for Wales) would reduce the number of councillors by 506, and using the same average payment, that equates to a saving of more than £11m every year. The Welsh Government must keep their eyes firmly fixed on the big picture and not submit to the interests of the two main political parties at VoG.

We desperately need fresh ideas and success from elected representatives, and keeping the status quo would be to miss yet another opportunity to effect change.

Dennis Harkus
(FocusBARRY supporter)

'Chance for our councillors to deliver for Llantwit Major'

THERE have been many articles written over the last few years about people being disengaged from politics and not even bothering to vote.

The electorate of Llantwit Major are very lucky; we have a local party which is above all the political games of party politics – the Llantwit First Independents. Their whole aim is to ensure, to the best of their ability, that Llantwit Major is treated fairly when it comes to council expenditure across the Vale.

At the last local elections, they swept to power with a landslide victory, winning all the Llantwit seats on the Vale and Town Councils.

Having four Vale councillors, enabled the Llantwit First Independents to hold the balance of power and to form a coalition with the Labour party to run the Vale Council. The majority Labour group cannot get anything passed at council without the support of our local Independent councillors.

You would have thought that this would mean that Llantwit would be in the strongest position ever to get its fair share of spending from the Vale Council.

On the Independents' website published prior to the last local election, it was stated: "Llantwit First Independents will continue to press the Vale Council to build a new school and give our children the best facilities – we pay our taxes and we demand fair play.

"Llantwit Major is the third largest town in the Vale of Glamorgan and we should be treated the same as everyone else."

The Independents find themselves in the most powerful position on the council they will ever have and, with the possible merger with Cardiff council, are unlikely to ever be in this position again.

So, I call on our councillors to stand up for the people of Llantwit now – challenge the Vale to deliver a new comprehensive school, and not let it continue to treat Llantwit Major and its residents as second class citizens.

Llantwit Major needs its new comprehensive, as the independents stated in their pre-election newsletter, and not some partial rebuild.

Llantwit Major should not have to sacrifice two of our local primary schools to get the school only partially rebuilt. Llantwit Major deserves a new comprehensive.

If Llantwit Major cannot get its fair share when its local Independents run the council, when can it?

David Thomas, Llantwit Major.

LLANTWIT SCHOOLS AMALGAMATION: *(consultation full of contradictions)*

I'VE been reading the 'consultation document' on the proposal to amalgamate Eagleswell Primary School with Llanilltud Fawr school much more closely, in order to formulate my response to the consultation.

I've heard all along that this consultation is about the amalgamation of the two primary schools, and not about the Llantwit Major Comprehensive.

It's a shame then, that the Llantwit Major Comprehensive children are being led to believe that those of us who are campaigning to stop the amalgamation, are stopping them from having the school that they deserve.

In the consultation document on page 11 under the heading 'Funding' I quote, "*Funding for the Llantwit Major Comprehensive remodelling and new build Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant will be available through the council's capital programme and the Welsh Government's 21st century schools programme. Capital receipts from the sale of Eagleswell Primary school site will be required to build the new amalgamated primary school*".

I'm afraid, though, that there are other parts of the consultation document which contradict the above. For example, one of the options considered on the top of page 10 of the document was to "*Remodel Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, carry out major repairs to Eagleswell Primary and build a new Llanilltud Fawr Primary School on the existing site*".

It goes on to say that funding for the repair of Eagleswell primary is available through asset renewal funding and Llanilltud Fawr can have a new primary school with funding from the 21st Century Schools Band B funding, which is due to commence in 2020. (However, parents were told at the drop-in session that this may be brought forward to 2018).

In the document, this option was dismissed because it would only provide a "second best" building for the comprehensive school.

I'm sorry, but how can anyone take this document seriously when it is full of such gross contradictions?

How can anyone vote on this document when it doesn't clearly or concisely state exactly what it is?

Sharon Locker, Boverton.

Challenge facing wartime centre

I WOULD very much like to thank Mr Lloyd for his kind words in last week's GEM about our tiny Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre.

The establishment of the museum, funding it and creating the exhibits has been a real challenge, but thanks to the team of dedicated volunteers, we believe that we have created something special in Barry; and both our visitor book and Trip Advisor mirror this sentiment.

Our greatest challenge was locating a venue, and a huge thank you must go to the team at the Barry Tourist Railway, who lent us one of their rooms.

Our suggestion to create a Great War Centenary Centre, faces the same challenge – that of locating a suitable venue. Funding for Great War projects such as this is available, but applications take time and the clock is ticking.

As Mr Lloyd suggests, the Barry Tourist Information Centre building is not the only possible venue in Barry.

I have always believed that a suitable sized part of the Barry Library would deliver a cost-effective and sustainable solution, and the idea rated favourably in the Options Appraisal commissioned by the previous Vale administration.

Sadly, the pumping house building to which Mr Lloyd refers has now been lost to developers. This however has a silver lining; as not only will it bring an iconic and previously derelict Barry building back into use, but this development will attract 'Section 106' money which will be paid to the Vale Council.

This is one of the pots from which we hope to draw for our project in the mid-term.

We must remember that when we first proposed this suggestion, we had 18 months in which to complete it, and now we have just six.

To create a Great War Centenary Centre for Glamorgan now requires a positive can-do attitude, which Barry at War volunteers have proven they have; and a suitable venue.

Ade Pitman
(Chair, Barry at War)

'Why do we need more Foodbanks?

WHAT'S all this talk of extra Foodbanks? In 1940, my widowed mother kept a roof over my sister's and my own head, fed us and clothed us.

There was a war going on, everything on ration, harder times than we are experiencing now – and there was no family allowance. If anything was needed, you were means-tested, or told to go to close relatives for help.

The other things that were not about in those days were 42-inch wide screen televisions, Sky or Virgin package deals, DVD players, X-boxes and, of course, mobile phones and later opening times in pubs. Enough said.

Mr B Kirke, Barry.

• *Email your letters to The Editor at:* ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*** *including your* ***FULL NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER***.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL FEBRUARY 27)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
20 Thur	09.24	9.3	21.44	9.1
21 Fri	10.02	9.0	22.22	8.7
22 Sat	10.47	8.6	23.13	8.3
23 Sun	11.46	8.1		
24 Mon	00.27	7.9	13.08	7.8
25 Tues	01.59	7.8	14.44	7.9
26 Wed	03.17	8.3	15.53	8.5
27 Thur	04.22	9.1	16.53	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk • gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk*** **• Tel 01446 774484**
Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP.
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Carparks must be open...

Island business owner's anger at latest traffic jam

THERE were six-hour traffic jams on Barry Island last Sunday, February 16, a local businessman has claimed.

With blue skies overhead and warm sunshine, thousands of people headed to the Island.

But Mark Vockins, owner of the Quasar attraction, said many visitors were unaware that there was free car parking and a traffic jam developed.

He explained: "It was the worst traffic jam I can ever remember on the Island. I've never seen anything like it.

"It lasted for six hours, from midday until 6pm.

"There are fewer trains on Sundays and they don't start in the valleys until around midday.

"It means lots of people decide to use their car.

"When they arrive, they don't realise the car parks are free and keep driving round looking for a spot.

"You could see them driving round the Pleasure Park two or three times.

"I had customers arriving from Porth, Cardiff and locally – they were all saying 'we couldn't find anywhere to park'.

"Some of them parked on Plymouth Road."

Parking is free in the car parks from October 1 until mid-March.

Mark pointed out that there needed to be clearer signs on the Island directing people to the three car parks, highlighting the fact they were free.

He said he had spoken to the highways department of the Vale Council earlier in the week to make these points.

"The car parks were not used to their full capacity; if they had been it would have eased things a bit.

"Nell's Point was part open, the Old Harbour was open, but the overflow wasn't open."

He said he planned to get in touch with MP Alun Cairns to inform him of what had happened.

Stephen Bowen, a highway works manager with the Vale Council, said spaces were still available in the Harbour Road car park throughout the day.

"We're aware of some congestion on the Island due to the large amount of visitors, which is usual on a day when the weather is particularly good for the time of year.

"There were spaces in the Harbour Road car park, which is why the overflow car park was not open.

"We were not aware that Nell's Point car park was full, so the additional area was not opened.

"This car park has never been opened previously during the winter; it is not manned and we did not receive any reports that it was full."

He promised: "For the future, we will erect signage to allow the public and local businesses to contact the council to inform us when the car park is near capacity and additional areas require opening." TIM CHAPMAN

Newly-weds have lots of exciting adventures ahead !

A VALE couple had a very special day last Saturday (February 15) when they were married – after previously enjoying 90 years of marriage to their respective partners.

Jackie Chugg of Llancarfan and Ralph Prole of Barry were married in the Masonic Hall in Guildford Crescent, Cardiff.

Jackie told The GEM: "We didn't think there was any point in waiting around."

Both Jackie and Ralph had enjoyed happy marriages. Jackie was married for 40 years, while Ralph was married for 50.

Sadly, both lost their partners to cancer, and this prompted Jackie and Ralph to pay tribute to Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses, for the excellent care and treatment that the two cancer charities gave.

Jackie said: "We decided that we would ask our guests not to give wedding presents, but to make a donation to charity"

A total of 60 guests were present for the wedding breakfast in the Masonic Hall, and this was followed by a civil ceremony (with a difference) and a blessing.

Jackie explained: "I walked down the aisle to Abba's 'Lay all your love on me', and then I left the wedding venue to 'Dancing Queen'

Jackie continued the Abba theme by wearing silver – but no platform shoes!

She said: "I'm very grateful to the organist, Lyndon Howells, for adapting the Abba songs for the ceremony. I would also like to thank 12-year-old Harriet Taylor, who played the harp.

"My thanks also go to the ladies of Llancarfan who provided all the floral decorations."

For the evening celebration, a dinner and dance in the same venue, 100 guests arrived to join the happy couple.

ABOVE: Signing the register.

A fantastic wedding cake, made by Ralph's daughter Racheal, decorated with cats, rabbits and a giant teapot, was the centrepiece of the post wedding celebrations.

Ralph and Jackie met again less than two years ago, although they were aware of each other because Jackie used to live opposite Ralph's brother.

Ralph ran a family bakery business, Prole's the Bakers, in Cowbridge Road, Cardiff, retiring 20 years ago, while Jackie ran nursing homes caring for elderly people with mental health needs, also in Cardiff.

Both plan to continue their hobbies. Ralph is a keen golfer, and still plays two or three times a wek at Brynhill, while Jackie is an enthusiastic bridge player.

The happy couple are planning to go on a honeymoon trip later this year, with a Caribbean cruise the favoured option!

School lessons in online safety

BARRY ISLAND Primary School recently held a live webinar – 'Let's create a better internet together'– hosted by the Children's Commissioner for Wales' team and the Vale Youth Service, to promote the Commissioner's Super Ambassador Scheme and children's rights.

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's Services in the Vale, answered questions from primary schools from across the county and took part in a debate on the best ways to stay safe online.

The Children's Commissioner, Keith Towler, said: "With the development of Hwb, a single learning platform in Wales, it is key that we understand how young people want to be engaged in education and the role that digital technologies and teacher education play in that."

Information gathered from the webinar will influence a report being prepared by the National Digital Learning Council (NDLC).

Ty Golding, headteacher of Barry Island Primary, said: "It was wonderful that pupils from Barry Island Primary could share their ideas and thoughts via the webinar with children from over 15 other primary schools. Using technology to collaborate with such ease and working together as a collective 'voice' has provided us all with a meaningful opportunity to make a difference.

"We are now looking at how webinars could be used to communicate across schools, to support a wide variety of learning experiences."

Consequences of Dinas Powys bridge closure

A COUPLE of weeks ago, there was a GEM report concerning the 14-week closure of the Cross Common Road bridge over the river alongside the Cardiff Road.

I wonder whether those responsible considered the matter of the emergency services' access to local properties.

Bethel House Care Home in the Hebron Hall complex is the largest client for both paramedic and emergency ambulance attendance, so any emergency services coming from Barry, including the Fire Service, will need an extra five minutes' response time, especially when the children are arriving at or leaving the Murch Junior School.

Even services coming from Cardiff will need extra time as the route across the Murch railway bridge and past the local shopping area is frequently the scene of traffic hold-ups.

The report indicates that the job will be to repair the bridge. If anything needs to be done, it is that the bridge be widened to avoid the daily frustrations when buses and other large vehicles are crossing it.

What about the bus service? Will they have to turn around by the entrance to Hebron Hall and retrace their tracks?

Surely the proposed new road to avoid the Cross Common bridge could be made in the 14 weeks, and this would be a major benefit for everybody.

David Chapman, Dinas Powys

Foodbank opens

A new Foodbank will be officially launched in Barry town centre next Thursday, February 27.

It will be opened at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, by the Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan, and the Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt.

A Foodbank spokeswoman explained: "The Vale Foodbank opened just over two years ago, and we have provided emergency food parcels to over 6,000 local people in crisis, of which 2,346 were children under 16."

The centre will be open on Friday afternoons. The GEM will publicise the opening times at a later date when they become available.

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RNLI volunteers help flood victims

Pictured are: Jason Dunlop, Penarth; Ian Brandreth, Aberystwyth; Gemma Gill, Aberystwyth; Marc Gibbons, Barry Dock; Paul Eastment, Porthcawl; Sarah Lunn, Angle; Bryn Harrison, Aberystwyth; Chris Vaughn, Mumbles; Matt Fifield, Horton and Port Eynon; Hugh Davies, Barry Dock; Phil Davies, Lifeguard Manager for West Wales.

HUGH 'Spud' Davies and Marc Gibbons were met by other RNLI flood rescue volunteers at the Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat station before driving to Taunton on Saturday, February 15 as storms continued to batter the UK.

Although their base will be in Taunton, they will travel from there to wherever the floods pose a risk to life. The skills they have learned and practiced to save lives at sea will be put to good use as they help the people most affected by the extreme weather.

The RNLI Flood Rescue Team was introduced following the RNLI's involvement with the Mozambique floods of February 2000.

A team of eight, with six RNLI inflatable lifeboats were deployed and provided humanitarian aid to some 10,000 people.

Volunteer team member Marc Gibbons said: "I'm pleased to be able to help flood victims. The skills I have learned as a lifeboat crew member have been useful, but the extra training I have had will help me stay safe in the fast water conditions that we are likely to see during the rescue."

Abi Phillips

MP welcomes Barry soldier to Parliament

Alun Cairns pictured with James Petre.

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns welcomed Barry soldier, Cpl James Petre of the Queen's Dragoon Guards to Parliament recently.

Cpl Petre was representing the Welsh Cavalry at a meeting of Welsh regiments with MPs in the House of Commons.

Cpl Petre, of College Place, Barry, has served twice in Afghanistan and Mr Cairns was keen to hear of his experiences. The regiment is currently based in Germany.

Mr Cairns said: "It was an absolute privilege to welcome Cpl Petre to the House of Commons. Without question, he is a model of the best of the British Army. I first worked with the Queen Dragoon Guards 18 months ago when we were fighting to save the regiment from the reduction in the size of the armed forces.

"We owe a huge debt to people like Cpl Petre who give so much on our behalf."

Choir presents a £1,200 to Velindre

BARRY Male Voice Choir has presented a cheque for £1,200 to representatives of The Velindre Cancer Centre, raised from the choir's annual charity concert at All Saints' Barry in December 2013.

They were accompanied by local artiste Jodi Bird and the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band. The choir's charity work continues into 2014 at the three choirs of Barry concert in aid of the Mayor of Barry's charities at St Mary's Church, Barry, on Friday February 28 at 7pm. Tickets are £5 from the mayor's office, Gladstone Rd, choir members or at the door.

On February 25 at 10.30am, the choir will be performing with a St David's Day flavour in the civic offices, Barry for the Mayor of the Vale's coffee morning. Admission £1.50 to include tea/coffee and biscuits. The choir is now recruiting for 2014. Details at www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk

Cadoxton (Barry) Conservative Club & Institute Company Ltd

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

Weds 12th March, 7.30pm

in **The Osborne Buildings, Vere St, Cadoxton, Barry.**

All shareholders welcome.

J Stringer, Secretary

'It's a passion'

'IT'S a Passion' is the title of a floral demonstration to be given to members of the Barry Floral Society, by Mrs Gloria Davies, of Ammanford, on Tuesday, February 25 at the St Nicholas Community Hall, Barry at 2.15pm. New members welcome.

Mystery death of Mussolini's deputy

THE speaker at last week's Barry Men's Forum, was Mr David Ephraim, who gave an interesting illustrated talk on Italo Balbo, who was Mussolini's deputy.

Balbo was born in 1896 in a small village in Italy, and he joined the Italian Flying Squadron, training the Italians to fly in the First World War. He then graduated in law and social sciences, and became secretary of the National Fascist Party.

He rose quickly through the ranks, so that by 1925 he was appointed as second in command to Mussolini.

The fascists were soon in power and at the age of 29, he was appointed Secretary of State for the Air Force, where he was instrumental in organising long distance 'cruises for aircraft', firstly around the Mediterranean and Black Sea. But the biggest and most successful was in 1933 when 25 SM55 aircraft flew to America, at a time when trans-Atlantic flights were very unusual.

When the squadron arrived in New York, they were given a ticker tape reception, and in Chicago 300,000 greeted them. On their return to Rome, there was a similar ecstatic reception, and Bilbo was promoted to Air Marshal.

However, it appears Mussolini was jealous of the adulation that the Italian population heaped on him, and he also opposed many of Mussolini's policies, including supporting the Spanish Civil war and Hitler.

In 1935, Balbo was sent to Libya, as the Italian Governor General. When he was flying back to Italy in 1940, his plane was shot down by Italian fire, and he was killed. A conspiracy theory still lingers as to whether Mussolini ordered the action.

The Barry Men's Forum meets at the new Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall in Aberystwyth Crescent every Thursday morning at 10.15am until noon.

On Thursday, February 27, the speaker will be Mr Philip Davies, whose talk is entitled 'Wills of the Rich and Famous.'

New members are very welcome. For further information, telephone 02920 594881.

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Barry Island Promenade facelift is 'progressing well' – VALE COUNCIL

THE Vale Council this week reported that work at Eastern Promenade on Barry Island is "progressing well".

When completed, the scheme will provide new beach huts, toilet facilities and a traversing wall, as well as renovation of the eastern shelter and new viewing platforms and footpaths.

"The recent focus of attention has been on excavating areas to allow for new footpath links, constructing retaining walls and preparing the new beach hut structures. These works remain well on schedule, despite the recent spell of bad weather," said council leader Neil Moore.

He and Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, and the director of development services, Rob Thomas, visited the site to gauge progress, accompanied by David Harris, managing director of WRW Construction Ltd.

Coun Moore went on: "The scheme demonstrates this council's firm commitment to Barry and the Island as a visitor destination. This destination is unique in south Wales and the scheme will provide further attractions and facilities for visitors.

"We are developing a scheme that all traders, businesses, residents and visitors can be proud of and I look forward to visiting the site again in a few weeks' time to see further progress."

Coun Burnett commented: "It was really positive to see the scheme taking shape and there were noticeable differences since my previous visit to the site. The progress on the beach huts is exciting and you can now picture what a difference they will make to this part of the promenade.

"I am particularly pleased that decisions that we made during the feasibility and design stage of the project means that we are delivering a robust scheme, which has already been tested during the recent stormy weather."

Step out in the capital for Tenovus

A NIGHTTIME fundraising walk that raised over £40,000 for Tenovus, Wales' leading cancer charity in 2013 is returning to the streets of the capital city.

Registration has opened and the charity is urging people to get their places before they miss out. Last year, Cardiff City FC club captain Mark Hudson and BBC Weatherman Derek Brockway set 500 walkers on their way through the night from the Cardiff City Stadium – all walking to raise money to support cancer patients and their families across communities in Wales.

Bethan Palfrey, challenge event manager at Tenovus, said: "This year, our Goodnight Walk is back, bigger and better than ever with loads more exciting things planned for our walkers, making sure it's going to be a very, very Goodnight!

"Last year, people took part for all sorts of reasons, walking in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a friend or family member who had been given the all clear. This is why our Goodnight Walk is so special; it brings everyone together for the same reason."

Registration is £12 with a discounted rate for groups of four walkers. Enter at tenovus.org.uk or call 029 2076 8860 and speak to the fundraising team for more information.

Mayor hands over hamper to Fairtrade prize draw winner

BARRY Town Council's campaign to make Barry a Fairtrade town is continuing – and residents were recently asked to sign a petition supporting the call.

As a thank you, they were entered into a prize draw to win a Fairtrade hamper, and the Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis recently surprised Tracy Hawtin and her sons Daniel and Ben, with a visit to present the hamper, which was donated by Waitrose.

Daniel told the Mayor about Fairtrade activities in Romilly School, where he is a pupil and Ben, a pupil at Barry Comprehensive School, is also a keen Fairtrade supporter.

Coun Curtis said: "I was delighted to present this hamper to Tracy on behalf of Barry Town Council, and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to sign the petition.

"We are hoping to hear soon that Barry has been granted Fairtrade status, but will need to continue to work with local residents and businesses to promote the benefits.

"We would like to thank Waitrose for donating the hamper and for their continued support in our campaign."

Council in swift action over syringe

ABOVE: The needle was removed by a council worker.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The Vale Council has recently been in touch with the owners of the land, requesting that it be kept tidy.

Clifford Parish, the operational manager for waste management and cleansing at the council, praised Mr Evans for bringing the syringe to the attention of the council worker.

Mr Parish explained: "The land is no longer in the ownership of Associated British Ports, but the new owners have very recently been contacted by the council and informed that they have a legal duty to keep the area clear of litter and refuse, and that the council expects them to do so or face the possibility of formal legal action.

"However, where any person illegally deposits a hyperaemic syringe or needle, or any other item that would be a risk to the health of our residents on land to which they have free access, be it on public or private land, we will take immediate steps to safely remove it, as we did following Mr Evans informing one of our staff."

Mr Parish added: "We commend Mr Evans on his actions and advise anyone seeing such an item not to attempt to remove it themselves, but to contact the council on 01446 700111, so we can arrange for its safe removal and disposal as quickly as possible."

Residents' relief as housing plan is turned down

RESIDENTS in the Primrose Hill area of Cowbridge have breathed a sigh of relief after a controversial plan for 79 houses was turned down by the Vale Council's planning committee.

The companies behind the plan had launched an appeal, based on the fact that no Vale Council planning decision had yet been made on the scheme.

However, when the appeal came before the planning committee last Thursday (February 13) council officers had recommended that it be turned down, and councillors on the planning committee agreed.

The GEM understands that the vote to say no was unanimous.

The plan to build 79 new homes – with about 48 earmarked as affordable housing for rent or purchase – had been proposed jointly by the United Welsh Housing Association and Charles Church, a premium building company that is part of the Persimmon Group.

Charles Church intended to build the 31 homes intended for the open market.

Local residents formed the 'Gateway to Cowbridge' action group to oppose the plan and its chairman, Kevin Freeland, had this to say:

"Naturally, we are delighted that the entire Vale Council planning committee agreed with the vast majority of townspeople, local councillors and their own officers in indicating they would reject this unwanted and unwarranted greenfield development.

"Given such local opposition, it would be regrettable if the developers tried to impose their wishes on the town via a planning appeal, but we will remain vigilant and will join with the council in opposing any such move."

However, a statement from United Welsh indicated that Mr Freeland's wish is not going to be granted.

Richard Mann, the director of development at United Welsh, said: "We are both surprised and disappointed by the decision.

"The Vale Council has clearly stated that the need for affordable housing in Cowbridge is now 'critical', and there were no objections to our proposal from the council's own internal consultees.

"We are in the process of appealing this decision to the Welsh Government."

PHILIP IRWIN

BARRIVALE BRIDGE NEWS

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club:

February 4 - session 1, mixed pairs. First, Peter Millar and Diana Jones (60.71 per cent); second, Mike Close and Noelle Bond (60.12); third Jane Brook and Denis Mottram (59.38) Bryn Gough and Dave Reed won on handicap

February 11 - session 2 mixed pairs. First, Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick (59.52); second, Jane Brook and Denis Mottram (57.94); third Reg Dyer and Ken Hannah (56.35) Reg and Ken won on handicap

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road , Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm. **MB**

Find us on Facebook
facebook.com /glamorgangem

Getting creative

New Jerusalem Congregational Church, Tynewydd Road, Barry, is holding a creativity day for children and young people on Wednesday, February 26 (free entry).

There are two sessions. The morning is for younger children and includes baking, modelling and painting.

The afternoon is for older children and includes film-making, batik painting and drama.

Times: 10am to 12 noon for five to nine-year-olds, and 1.30pm to 3.30pm for aged 10 and over.

Telephone 01446 406197 for more information..

Quiz for ValePlus

ValePlus. the local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, will be holding a quiz night at its centre in High Street, Barry, on Friday, March 7 at 7pm.

All are welcome to attend. Teams can be up to six persons and the entry fee is £5 per person, which includes a chip supper.

Further details from Steve or Melanie on 01446 746691 or check the website www.vale plus.org.

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www.eternitywithlove.co.uk

ABOVE: The Red Merles were taken from their mother at the age of just four weeks.

Theft of puppies is 'irresponsible'

A FLEMINGSTON couple were shocked by the irresponsibility of thieves who stole three puppies from their farm a week ago.

David Morgan and Catherine Allen say the puppies were just four weeks old and far too young to be separated from their mother.

David told The GEM: "They were taken overnight on Tuesday, February 11. They were nice and cosy in a shed just five yards from the house.

"It was a night with lots of wind and rain and we didn't hear anything.

"They are sheep dog puppies and the ones that were taken were Red Merles – a boy and two girls."

There were five dogs in the litter.

David believes the thieves were opportunists who had been hoping to steal a quad bike.

He and Catherine have reported the theft to the police who have launched an investigation.

Catherine publicised the theft on Facebook and now has over 5,000 hits.

David added: "They are only four weeks old and it is irresponsible of them to be taken from their mother. We wonder whether they will survive."

As you can see from the photograph the puppies have distinctive markings. If anyone has any information, they can contact their local police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

'Anti-Bullying Week' marked at Barry Comprehensive

LAST term, Barry Comprehensive School marked the event Anti-Bullying Week, with a series of workshops that were run for students in years 7, 8 and 9.

The anti-bullying committee, and a group of performing arts and theatre students, worked hard, creating resources for the event.

They included live theatre, a short video and an anti-bullying booklet for students to record their thoughts.

The workshop kicked off with a sixth form student finally standing up to a bully and asking for advice from students and our very own Jeremy Kyle.

The audience were poised to see how the relationship between the sixth formers would pan out and enjoyed being given the opportunity to 'join' the show.

Students looked at the issue of bullying from different perspectives.

They were given a number of case studies and scenarios and had to put themselves in the role of anti-bullying councillors.

ABOVE: Students with their anti-bullying booklets.

They discussed and shared ideas on how best to deal with the problems at hand and offered advice to both victims and the bullies themselves.

Students were then asked to look to themselves to see how their behaviour affects others.

Following on from the workshops, students were given the opportunity to complete bullying questionnaires. The questionnaire responses were collated and fed back to students in special assemblies for years 7 to 11.

The consensus of the week was… Bullying: See it, Stop it! **AC**

WHAT'S ON *– in brief*

Nearly new sale

CROSSWAY Methodist Church, Barry, is holding a nearly new sale on Tuesday, February 25, at 2.30pm.

Stalls include bric-a-brac, cakes, raffle. Entry (50p) includes tea/coffee and biscuit. Proceeds in aid of church funds.

Clairvoyance

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road, is holding a special evening of clairvoyance with Lee Petulengro on February 26 at 7pm. Admission £5 in aid of church funds.

Kidney Wales

THE Kidney Wales Foundation (Penarth branch) is holding a spring lunch at the Dinas Powys Lawn Tennis Club on Wednesday, March 5 from 12pm.

Tickets are available for £11 from either Heather (02920 705308) or Paula (02920 701209).

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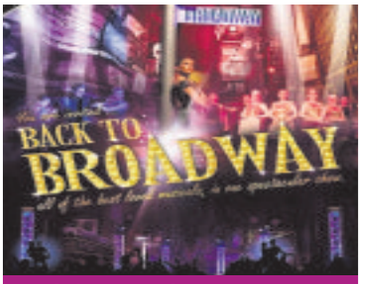
CINEMA AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Elvis Years
Direct from the West End hit show 'Jailhouse Rock'
Friday 28 March at 7.30pm

Day to Go
All aboard a bus for a poetic journey through Barry, meet the 'locals' and hear their stories
Sat 5 & Sat 12 April at 12.00pm, 2.00pm & 4.00pm

The Bon Jovi Experience
The only Bon Jovi tribute to perform live with Jon Bon Jovi
Friday 11 April at 8.00pm



Back to Broadway
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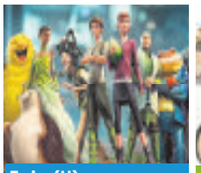
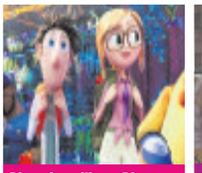


Epic (U)
Monday 24 February
10.00am
TICKETS £2.00

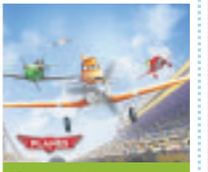
Wadjda (PG)
Monday 24 February
1.00pm & 7.00pm
£4.50 / £5.50



Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (U)
Thursday 27 February
10.00am
TICKETS £2.00

Blue Jasmine (12)
Monday 3 March
1.00pm & 7.00pm
£4.50 / £5.50

The Fifth Estate (15)
Monday 10 March
1.00pm & 7.00pm
£4.50 / £5.50



Planes (U)
Saturday 15 March
11.00am
TICKETS £2.00

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Dragons, superheroes, (*and a Fairy Tale Ball*) at Gladstone Primary!

THERE was fun and excitement among the younger children in Gladstone Primary last week as nursery, reception and year-1 dressed up for the day – as part of their topic work.

The nursery and reception classes have been working on the topic 'Dragon Tales' and dressed up as their favourite character from a fairy tale.

Throughout the week, the children planned a special party, created invitations, and made cakes for a fun Fairy Tale Ball.

Year-1 have been looking at Super Heroes and had to design and create their own Super Hero with super powers.

Mrs Thomas' class performed an assembly in front of the whole school and their parents and the older children of Gladstone and staff were delighted to watch!

Airport market draws the crowds

Jane Hutt AM with operations director Deb Barber at the airport.

THE sun came out for a successful holiday market at Cardiff Airport on Sunday, and Vale AM Jane Hutt joined the crowds of visitors, staff and operators to find out more about the holiday destinations available.

Memories are recalled of Welsh arsenal

AT Llanblethian WI's meeting last week, Mr Mike Clubb gave an illustrated and fascinating talk on 'The Welsh Arsenal 1939 - 1945'.

He said that the original Arsenal was at Woolwich, but because of the close proximity to London and the heavy bombing, when 100 people were killed at the factory, it was thought sensible to relocate to a green field site.

In May 1936 the Bridgend site was announced, with the main factory to be sited at Waterton. This was to be the largest factory in Britain during the Second World War, employing over 30,000 people, who came from all corners of Glamorgan, Swansea, Barry, Pontypridd, the Valleys and surrounding areas. There were also three sub-factories.

Two hostels were built at Island Farm, Bridgend and two housing estates were also built to house people from London. Two underground tunnels were built under Brackla Hill linking to the main factory at Waterton.

A decoy factory was also built near Colwinston. During construction, there were five fatalities. Leisure facilities were provided for the workers and team sports were arranged. Dances were held in the canteen on a Saturday night and revues were also put on by the various sections working in the factory.

The workforce was made up of 25 per cent male and 75 per cent female: half came to work by bus and half by train, alighting at Tremains Halt, which carried nine and a half million passengers per year.

There were 30,000 people employed, with a third working on a shift at a time.

The King and the Queen Mother paid a visit to the factory to see the production and to meet the workers, who were engaged in dangerous work; in all 23 people were killed in explosions and probably more than 100 people suffered serious injuries, some losing fingers, hands, limbs and eyes from the blasts.

In 2009, a plaque was erected in Bridgend, in memory of the brave workers who gave their lives to produce the materials needed to enable the war to be won.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 13, at 7.30pm in Llanblethian Church Hall. The speaker is Gail Roberts, who will be talking about personal skin care. Visitors are welcome.

ICONS AND DISPLAY TRICKS WITH PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

FORUM evenings are held to explore members' concerns and look at odd corners of computing.

A hangover question from an earlier meeting was 'How do you customise a folder icon?', so we looked at that.

A Windows XP folder icon shows a manila-coloured folder, slightly open at the top. This can be customised.

Right click on the folder icon to open a dialogue box and select the Customize Tab. Towards the bottom of the tab, click on Change Icon and another box will appear showing a range of icons that are available to choose from.

Select one; say Apply and OK. The original icon will be replaced by the one selected.

Alternatively, start as above and on the Customize Tab in the Folder Pictures area, click on Choose Picture.

In the box that appears, navigate to the picture you want and click on Open, then OK.

The picture will appear on the folder icon when it is displayed as a thumbnail.

In Windows 7, folder icons are slightly different. They are open on the right-hand side rather than the top and once documents are put into it, the icon is tweaked to include a document protruding from the folder.

The routine for customising Win 7 folder icons is similar to that in XP above. There are more icons to choose from if simply changing the icon, or a chosen picture appears as protruding from the folder when viewed as a sub-folder.

Screens now provide a higher resolution. That means icons have become more intricate in design, with the result that some are small and quite hard to read.

Windows 7 recognised this and added a feature to enable users to select the size of the icons displayed from small, medium, large or extra large for easy recognition.

Note that when you click on the view option button (top right of the window, next left but one of the round blue button carrying the question mark) you are offered a selection menu with a vertical slider bar to mark the selection.

If your mouse has a central wheel, you can make your selection much easier by selecting any icon; holding down the Control Key and rotating the centre wheel. This works for the whole range of available options.

The mouse wheel does a similar operation for the items on the Desktop. The Desktop is basically a folder displayed in a different way, so the wheel-mouse is handy.

One member had been taken aback when his screen suddenly turned sideways .This is a built-in facility that must be useful for something. Smart phones and ipads do it automatically using built-in movement sensors.

For a laptop, hold down the Control and Alt keys at the same time and press an arrow key.

The left or right arrow key will turn the display sideways and the down arrow will invert it. The up arrow will put it back to normal.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm for 8pm; 'Let's look at the stars' with Mike J. Visitors always welcome. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

HOWARD DESMOND

OFFER ENDS FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Vale officer joins support group for Afghanistan duty

ABOVE: Flight Lieutenant Nick Carter

A WELSH Royal Air Force (RAF) officer has been deployed on his first tour in Helmand Province, Afghanistan with the Joint Aviation Group.

Flight Lieutenant Nick Carter (31), a former student at Swansea University, is currently deployed on Operation HERRICK for five months as a Personnel Support Officer.

He grew up in Llanbradach, and is normally based at MoD St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, the home of the Defence Aircraft Repair Agency (DARA). His role as the Officer Commanding (OC) covers a wide range of duties and responsibilities.

While on tour in Afghanistan, Nick has a similar role working in the headquarters of the Joint Aviation Group (JAG), Camp Bastion where he oversees any HR, discipline and welfare issues, and arranges media visits and tours in order to support personnel and the JAG operations.

He said: "I joined the RAF in 2009, having been influenced by my father who used to serve in the Army. From a young age, I wanted to be an officer in the forces in order to support and contribute to operations and taskings."

This is Nick's first operational tour, and one which he is thoroughly enjoying in terms of putting a lot of his skills and training into practice. He said: "I've learnt a lot so far on this tour, and have definitely become a better commander."

Outside his military role, Nick enjoys keeping fit and plays rugby and kickboxes for the RAF.

He was born in Münster, Germany, but grew up in Llanbradach, and is currently living in Barry.

Although Nick is enjoying his deployment, he is missing his friends and family – his parents Meirion and Janice Carter who live in Penpedairheol, Rhymney Valleys, and his sister Rebecca Carter (26).

"I've also really missed the creature comforts that you take for granted on a daily basis back home," he added.

Double success for Newydd

THE Newydd Housing Association scooped two awards at the Vale of Glamorgan Building Excellence Awards at the Mount Sorrel Hotel in Barry on Friday, January 31.

It won the social housing category with the Crawshay House development in Merthyr Street, Barry and also won the best partnership award for its working relationship with Tony King architects on schemes across south Wales.

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www.scottwroe-hearingcentre.co.uk

Money and more advice

THE Vale Council and the Welsh Government's fuel poverty scheme, Nest, are providing free advice and support at a 'Money Matters and More' event in Barry Memorial Hall on Tuesday, February 25.

Organised by the Vale of Glamorgan Welfare Reform Stakeholder Group, Nest support workers will be on hand from 9am to midday, to provide residents with impartial advice on the Nest scheme and energy efficiency.

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or ring 01446 701230. Hrs: Tues - Sat 9am - 5pm

Former chairman now president of Vale Best Kept Village competition

AT the recent AGM of the Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village Competition, the management committee elected Basil Watkins as its new president, after the untimely death of the previous incumbent, Commander John Curteis.

Basil has been associated with the competition since he moved into the Vale in 1965. His last 20 years were as chairman, until he resigned two years ago.

The present chairperson, Miss Irena Wasilewska, is seen (*above right*) congratulating him on his appointment.

Organising the 2014 competition has already started and villages and community groups, such as the WI and local residents groups, are being encouraged to think ahead and start planning and preparing for the competition.

This year, the committee have agreed that entries would be accepted for either a whole village or part of a village, or a special feature within a village.

Prize money is a real incentive as the first prize for the winning village is £500, second prize is £350 and third prize £200.

There is one prize of £100 for the winner of the special feature award and the committee have suggested that this could be themed around the commemoration of World War I.

Many villages have war memorials and these could be used as part of the feature.

Irena Wasilewska said: "Last year's competition went well, despite the terrible weather at the beginning of the season. Entries were of a high standard and there was great enthusiasm from the participating villages.

"This year I would welcome the opportunity to meet interested villages or community groups to talk about the competition and explain what the judges look for when assessing the entries.

"The size of the village is not important, it is more about community participation and spirit."

For further information on the competition, or a presentation from members of the committee, contact the secretary, Carole Alexander at carole.alexander1@hotmail.com.

Benefit for Somerset victims

THE Glamorgan NFU and Glamorgan YFC have combined forces to raise funds for farmers in the Somerset levels, who remain flooded and facing financial hardship, as they struggle to restore their livelihoods after the flood waters subside.

Entertainment will take place at Barry Memorial Hall on February 28, provided by Maendy YFC and Wick YFC. Maendy will use the evening as another dress rehearsal before representing Glamorgan at the Welsh Finals in March.

There will be a 'modest' knife and fork supper provided by 'A Taste of Class' catering company from Marcross. Bar facilities will be provided, together with a raffle and an auction of items provided by local suppliers.

For information contact the NFU Mutual office on 01656 349293.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Friday, February 21, from 4pm – 5pm at Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose.

are YOUR finances being SQUEEZED?

Call in for a chat

Money Matters and More

at BARRY MEMORIAL HALL

Tuesday 25 February 2014

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Pencoed man on trial for murder

USING a dog lead as a ligature, a man murdered his wife by strangling her in her bedroom, it was alleged at Cardiff Crown Court.

On his own account, 45-year-old Kelvin Newton said the attack lasted 30 seconds to a minute, during which time Assia Newton struggled desperately to break the stranglehold.

The defendant, of Heol Las, Pencoed, was described by prosecutor Elwen Evans QC as a "violent, volatile man".

His wife, after separating from him, had written in a notebook. One entry read: "You have your freedom – let me go."

The 44-year-old had also written: "You must understand we have nothing in common any more. I will still care for you, but don't think it's love, it's more like a best friend. I don't like being used for your satisfaction."

Newton has pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder.

Ms Evans said that on the evening of Sunday, July 14, the police were called to Ty Bryn Terrace, Pencoed, the home of Mrs Newton, and found her dead on her bedroom floor.

A dog lead was around her head and had been used as a ligature and pulled very tightly.

There was no issue, said Ms Evans, that Newton killed her, but Newton said he was not guilty of murder and accepted he was guilty to a lesser offence of manslaughter.

The prosecution did not accept that.

"On the facts, he is guilty of murder. He is trying to escape responsibility for his actions."

The relationship between the two was complex. Mrs Newton was born in Cardiff and had three daughters with the defendant. Her first child, from another relationship, died in 2008 and this had a significant effect on her health.

The couple began their relationship in 1988, and married in June 1994.

There was an attitude on his part of volatility and violence, said Ms Evans. There were arguments, and violence and aggression by him.

"He was controlling, possessive and manipulative, and there were threats of harm and of self-harm by him. Some incidents were reported to the police, most were not."

In the past, she alleged, he had tried to strangle her and drown her in the bath.

On one occasion, he threw petrol over the house in Ty Bryn Terrace and tried to burn it down.

In 2005, he set fire to a settee and also had an axe. His explanation to the police was that he was upset because she said she was leaving him.

In June 2008, said Ms Evans, he tried to strangle her. He once pushed her down a flight of stairs, shaved her head and threw a screwdriver at her. She kept photographs of her injuries.

At times, said Ms Evans, he would throw a television set, computers, a microwave and paint, and sometimes threw £10 and £20 notes on the fire.

The couple parted in 2011 and he moved into the garage, and later moved in with a sister.

He remained a constant visitor to his wife's home, sometimes going several times a day.

She kept a notebook and had written in it "Help", saying she wanted to be friends and needed space. She had also written: "You can move on, we can make it official."

She also wrote that she thought he would kill her if she met anyone else, and she was afraid he would harm himself.

Ms Evans said that twice in 2013, she went on holiday to Tunisia and became friendly with a waiter, and indicated she wanted to move on from her dysfunctional relationship. She told neighbours she wanted to sell her house and have a divorce.

On July 12, said Ms Evans, they had an argument about her going to Tunisia and he said that if he could not have her back, his life was as good as over.

On the day of the killing, he told a daughter that he and his wife were not together and she didn't want contact with him. He seemed surprisingly calm, continued Ms Evans. But during the afternoon, he went to the house, took the dog lead from a hook by the front door, and strangled his wife.

Alleged Ms Evans: "After the killing, he took considered steps to try to get rid of the evidence. She had bled considerably and he had a shower. He threw his shorts, which were bloodstained, on a fire as well as two mobile phones."

Ms Evans said it was not known at what precise time the killing took place.

The trial is expected to last two weeks.

Maesteg man guilty of indecent exposure

A MAN who fantasised about a woman, has been sentenced to a two-year community order at Cardiff Crown Court.

Conrad Flay (43) of Caerau Road, Maesteg, had admitted charges of harassment and indecent exposure.

Judge William Gaskell told him: "Your behaviour has been intolerable."

Prosecutor John Probert said he wrote the woman a letter, saying he wanted to take her under his wing, could not take his eyes off her, and fantasised.

She described this as disgusting, and he once touched the woman saying, "You're not wired up, you're not recording me," and begged her not to call the police.

Some weeks later, he was seen carrying out an indecent act upon himself, for which he apologised to her.

The woman told him: "You are a pervert. Keep away."

When arrested, he denied such behaviour.

Flay was said to have convictions for 39 offences including arson, causing damage and shoplifting.

His solicitor, Adam Sharp, said Flay had been in custody since December 7.

The offences, he said, were distasteful, but one of Flay's problems was the use of drugs.

In the past, as a result of a road accident, he had suffered brain damage and resorted to amphetamine.

The court imposed a restraining order for five years on Flay, banning him from contacting the woman, and going to her street.

He was also ordered to register as a sex offender for five years and to observe an electronically-tagged curfew for three months from 9pm to 6am, and to pay £60 victim surcharge.

Happy birthday 'afiaith' Sant Baruc, *penblwydd hapus!*

YM mis Mawrth 2013, fe sefydlwyd grŵp i gyn ddisgyblion Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc sef AFIAITH – A(dfer)F(y)IAITH.

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Ar nos Wener Chwefror 28ain ar 8pm, rydym yn dathlu ein penblwydd yn UN oed yng ngwesty'r Mount Sorrel, Y Barri.

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Croeso cynnes i wynebau hen a newydd!

IN March last year, a new group was established for former pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc.

The group known as AFIAITH – A(dfer)F(y)IAITH – Restore My Language – has been well supported and is going from strength to strength.

The group has attracted over 70 ex-pupils. It has been a great way of re-engaging with the Welsh language and a great way of catching up with old friends and acquaintances.

On Friday, February 28 at 8pm, we will be celebrating our first birthday at The Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry.

We are looking forward to celebrating in style with a premiere of 'Sant Baruc Stars on Screen!' – a first showing of recently recorded Digital Stories. It promises to be a cracker of a party!

So if you are a former pupil, please join us – we would love to see you!

What better way to start St David's Day festivities? *'O Bydded i'r Heniaith Barhau!'*

Dulyn Griffith and Gwenno Huws

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OBITUARY

Norman Jones

(1927 – 2014)

LLANGEINOR Hunt stalwart Norman Jones has died after a long illness.

Norman owned many good point-to-pointers over the years and was a keen horseman with a good eye for a horse.

As a young lad, he competed in gymkhanas and shows with his brother David and with his father William, hunted with the Llangeinor pack.

He had been involved in the horse racing world since the 1950s, and he owned and trained a very good mare called Estelle, which beat the legendary three times champion hurdle winner, Sir Ken, at Warwick in 1955.

Some of the horses he owned, which hunt-racing enthusiasts may recall, were Moonello, Drumman, Matsix, Buckland Boy, King's Euro and, more recently, the grey Silver Story – which was trained by the Vale's William Vaughan.

Silver Story won at Cheltenham some 21 years after Matsix had won the United Hunts Challenge Cup there in 1992.

Norman is survived by his devoted wife Berenice of 60 years, his two children Beverley and Jeremy, and four grandchildren, Mia, Rory, Ellis and Lewys.

The funeral is taking place at Trealaw Church, Trealaw Cemetery, Tonypandy, today (Friday, February 21) at 1.30pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to the Injured Jockeys' Fund.

BRIAN LEE

Bridgend Lions all set for popular charity book fair

TWENTY years ago, when Bridgend Lions Club considered ideas for a new charitable project, they were not to know that they would be embarking on the most successful fundraising formula in their history.

Held in March 1994, Bridgend YMCA became the venue for the first Lions' book sale and it was a pretty modest affair using an upstairs room with a limited stock of donated books.

While the sale made just a small profit for the club's charity account it showed much promise and suggested a demand for well presented, quality pre-owned books. This formed the template for the future, becoming very successful and eagerly anticipated by the borough's booklovers, many of whom subscribed to the club's dedicated mailing list.

Rebranded some years ago as the Lions Book Fair, the event now takes over the YMCA's large main hall for three days where thousands of avid readers enjoy browsing the huge number of books on display.

Its reputation has spread and the Fair attracts customers from the whole of south east Wales becoming, the Lions believe to be, the largest single book event of its type in Wales.

Stocking and logistics is a huge project which takes months and the club cannot achieve this without the generosity of those who donate their books, the YMCA who accept those donations and provide the venue as well as a room for its workshop and store. Other partner groups such as 1092 ATC and Bridgend MPCT assist by supplying much needed volunteer muscle for fetching and carrying.

And what is the result of this hard work?

In its 20 years, Lions Book events have raised over £145,000, all of which has been returned to the community and benefits many local charities and causes.

The 2014 Lions Book Fair is being held from Friday February 28 to Sunday March 2, at Bridgend YMCA. All are welcome; entry is free and refreshments are available.

The usual enormous variety of fiction, non-fiction, children's and teen's books will be on offer at bargain prices.

For more details about the Book Fair, other Lions' projects and membership, go to ***bridgendlions.org.uk*** *or follow the club on facebook and twitter.*

Henry Trimlett

Ramblers avoid the rain on the Taff trail and the Llynfi Valley

AVOIDING muddy paths and surface water at present is nearly impossible but Penarth and District Ramblers leaders have been striving hard to beat the forecasted heavy rainfall and managed two walks recently in almost dry weather.

Barrie cancelled a trip to the Brecon Beacons and instead opted for a local walk, tramping along parts of the Taff Trail, Tongwynlais, Castell Coch, Whitchurch golf course and back via Forest Farm nature reserve and the Melingriffith feeder – to complete a respectable six-mile jaunt without the dreaded rain, which came in bucket loads later in the day.

On the following day, Jan and John did experience some showers of rain and hail, but for the majority of the walk in the delightful Llynfi Valley, the group stayed dry.

Making their way to Llangynwyd, that is only a small village but contains two inns, the Corner House and the thatched Old House that dates back to 1147. A

Also, the group learned some of the history of the 12th century church founded and dedicated to the 6th century St Cynwyd, from where the village name originates.

The village still celebrates the Mari Lwyd, which has pre-Christian origins when the horse was viewed as a symbol of power, fertility and prowess on the battlefield.

The name means grey mare and a decorated horse head, covered in a white sheet is carried through the streets from door to door during Christmas time by people who ask permission to sing and enter the houses.

This is counteracted by the residents and a battle of wits follows – if permission to enter is given, the group are rewarded with food and ale.

After climbing to Mynydd Margam by means of the Coed Morgannwg Way, the deer they hoped to see had possibly been frightened away by the fact huge logging machines are being used to clear the woodland.

Continuing on past the Bodvoc Stone, also known as the Margam Stone, they returned through the delightful Cwm Sychbant.

On February 22, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile hard walk taking in Pen Cerrig-calch and Table Mountain; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

On February 23, meet at 9.30am at Cogan for a six-mile moderate walk taking in the canal and Pontypool Park; contact Jan/John on 01446 418514.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

'Don't leave charging *e-cigarettes* unattended'

SOUTH Wales Fire and Rescue Service is warning those who use e-cigarettes not to leave these products unattended when charging.

Crews from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service have recently attended two separate fires when the batteries from the e-cigarette have exploded, travelled up to two metres across the room before landing on a carpet and igniting. Luckily the occupiers were close at hand and the fires were very small and were quickly extinguished by on site staff.

Group manager, Phil Pinches, said: "Research has shown that a number of incidents have occurred across the UK in recent months and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service encourages users to read the advice given on the safety leaflet provided with these products to reduce the risk of this happening".

Ruth joins the Dementia Friends

ALZHEIMER'S Society supporter Ruth, famous for her roles as Nessa in Gavin and Stacey and Sky One's Stella joined AMs from across the country, for the launch of Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay yesterday (Wednesday).

With funding from the Welsh Government, the Alzheimer's Society is running a year-long pilot of its Dementia Friends programme in Wales. Free volunteer-led information sessions aim to improve public knowledge of dementia.

Ruth Jones whose mother-in-law, Margaret, had dementia said: "I am particularly keen to raise awareness of dementia in all communities, especially where people may not know what support is available. Dementia Friends is a great way to get people talking and to ensure that people with dementia can be included wherever they live.

"Being a Dementia Friend is about being that little bit more aware because it's the small things that make a big difference."

To sign up and to find out where your nearest session is, visit dementiafriends.org.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CONTACT is a group of members who are elderly, disabled or housebound and meet socially at The Social Club, Hendre Road, Pencoed, from 11.45am to 2pm every Wednesday.

Telephone 01656 860353 for full details.

Rhoose bingo

THE management committee at Rhoose community hall is holding another fundraising bingo afternoon at the hall in Stewart Road on Saturday (February 22) at 2.30pm start. Light refreshments provided.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Let wisely – and see a specialist!

IT IS surprising how many landlords let their properties without having any idea of the law; most are probably unaware how frequently the law changes and how it affects them.

Catherine Hartland (Newbold Solicitors) states: "My team are always going on courses, as we have to make sure we are up to date, and when we leave we are always saying to each other 'how are we going to relay that information, especially when any breaches have serious consequences?"

"It is not just landlords who are unaware – most solicitors are. I was dealing with a case last week when a solicitor's firm from north Wales called me and they clearly had no idea about housing law and this puts the solicitor's firm at risk."

Even if you let a property through an agent, there are no guarantees they will have any more knowledge on the law.

Catherine says: "We are in court twice on Thursday in cases where agents have given negligent advice to landlords; one is an all-day trial, so if the agent loses, the solicitor's costs alone will be over £15,000.

"Another case that we are attending next week is where an agent completed legal forms and attended court on behalf of a landlord (agents do not have the legal right to do this) and were unable to deal with a last-minute defence brought by the tenant.

"The case was thrown out at court. The insurance does not cover agents for legal advice/signing legal documents/attending court (because they have no 'rights of audience'), the landlord had to sue the agents personally."

Landlords are naturally worried about paying for solicitors (some believe solicitors will cost thousands). However, a landlord need not worry; Newbold Solicitors complete documents for possession hearings for only £250 plus vat (excludes the court fee).

With the average rent being £600 a month is it worth the gamble of trying to deal with the matter yourself, or hoping nothing goes wrong via their agent?

If the case is defended – or worse, thrown out, and you have to start from the beginning – you may have lost six months' rental income (£2,400 say).

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Rugby players help launch Oil 4 Wales' new sponsorship...

INDEPENDENT oil distribution company Oil 4 Wales has sponsored a new rally team that is lining up for a season of competition in the Welsh Rally Championship and the Wales Rally GB.

As it looks to expand its presence across Wales, the company, which has depots in Milford Haven, Felinfach, Carmarthen and Cardiff, has signed up to support Spencer Sport for its first competitive season.

The Spencer Sport team has been created by Jamie Jukes, a former Champion National Hunt and Point-to-Point jockey, who has now turned his attentions from four-legs to four-wheels.

Having successfully contested a number of regional rallies during the past two years, Jukes decided to embark on a full season of motorsport in 2014 and set up Spencer Sport as a division of his land management company Spencer ECA, a client of Oil 4 Wales.

Jamie explained: "As a company, we wanted to create something that would enable us to harness the passion, excitement and competitive edge that only sport can provide.

"Sport is in my DNA and, whilst I fully accept that my riding days are now over, I have always had a passion for rallying. Added to this, some of Spencer ECA's work takes place in the forests, which has further fuelled my enthusiasm for the sport."

To get the team's campaign off to a flying start, Oil 4 Wales arranged for some of its Brand Ambassadors to attend the launch at Spencer ECA's premises near Llandysul in Ceredigion.Jonathan Davies, Ken Owens and Rhys Priestland took time out of training for the Six Nations to officially launch the new team.

Founder of Oil 4 Wales, Colin Owens, said: "Spencer Sport is an exciting new rally team which we're looking forward to supporting. The sponsorship comes at an opportune time for Oil 4 Wales as we look to expand our presence across the country and fulfil our dream and business plan of becoming the oil brand for Wales. It'll be great exposure for us as the Spencer Sport team will be competing at rallies across Wales.

"I'm delighted that our ambassadors Jon, Dan, Ken and Rhys could join us for the launch as like us, they share the same passion for Wales and sport as we do."

Wales and British Lions centre, Jonathan Davies, said: "I enjoy all sport so it was great to support the launch of Spencer Sport's rally team on behalf of Oil 4 Wales.

"I'm naturally a competitive person so it was great to get a taste of what rallying is all about. I wish the team all the best in their first competitive season."

The Spencer Sport rally team is planning a season of competition in its native Wales and will be challenging for the Welsh Clubman's 2WD Forest Rally Championship title. Plus, to round off the campaign, the team will enter the Wales Rally GB in November.

'Help us give young carers a treat'

CHARITY APPEALS

ACTION for Children – Gweithredu dros Blant is asking local residents to help give local young carers a break from their responsibilities with donations towards an Easter trip to Longleat Safari Park or Thorpe Park.

The charity supports children as young as eight-years-old who may be the sole carer for a loved one with an illness, disability or mental health problem. It is now hoping to raise £2,000 to give two groups of young people in Bridgend the opportunity to visit the much-loved attractions.

Joanne Burgess, a support worker at Bridgend Young Carers, said: "Young carers do such a lot for their relatives by helping to clean, cook and look after younger siblings, but many don't get the chance to go out on day trips like these.

"It would be fantastic to be able to give these young people a day to remember this Easter, by taking them to somewhere they've never been and letting them enjoy their childhood."

Action for Children – Gweithredu dros Blant's Bridgend Young Carers service offers young people the opportunity to take a break from their caring role, which many would be unable to do without support. The service also allows young carers to meet others, helping prevent them from feeling isolated, and allows access to practical support or counselling if needed.

If you'd like to make a donation towards these trips, contact Nina Rice on 02920 347060 or email nina.rice@actionforchildren.org.uk.

LITTER PICK

THIS month's Friends of Barry Beaches litter pick will be on Sunday, February 23 at Whitmore Bay. Volunteers are asked to meet at Marco's Cafe at 3pm. All welcome, but remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes to meet weather forecast.

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Three Peaks Challenge for Ty Hafan

RUGBY legend Colin Charvis will be captaining a celebrity heroes team for the GE Aviation Wales Welsh 3 Peaks challenge in aid of Tŷ Hafan.

Now in its 16th year, the event will see participants scaling Snowdon, the highest peak in Wales, before tackling the mighty Cadair Idris and Pen-y-Fan, all within 15 hours.

Former Wales captain Colin Charvis will join hundreds of participants for the 20.35 mile challenge taking place on Saturday June 14.

He said: "I'm really excited to be taking part in the GE Aviation Welsh 3 peaks challenge for Tŷ Hafan. It will be a tough day, but we should put things into perspective and think of the daily challenges these children and their families live through."

To date, more than 5,000 people have travelled from all over the world to undertake the challenge and a total of £1.32m has been raised for Tŷ Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

A group of dads of some of the children and young people supported by Tŷ Hafan will be entering teams once again this year.

Matthew Smith's four-year-old son, Lewis, suffers from Tuberous Sclerosis and was referred to Tŷ Hafan more than three years ago.

Matthew, of Llantwit Fadre, completed last year's event, and explained: "It was a huge challenge but I'm so pleased we did it.

"It was a great way to show our appreciation for the team at Tŷ Hafan and we'll be continuing with our fundraising efforts for this amazing charity."

GE Aviation Wales has supported the Welsh 3 Peaks event for the last 16 years. The very first challenge was instigated by a group of GE Aviation Wales employees and a few members of the original team are still involved with the event.

On supporting the Welsh 3 Peaks Challenge, Mike Patton, managing director of GE Aviation Wales, said: "We are proud to support the Welsh 3 Peaks challenge.

"Tŷ Hafan provides an extremely important service to the local community and the hospice supports hundreds of children and their families all year round.

"The challenge attracts people from across Wales and beyond.

"The atmosphere on the day is fantastic, and it is great to see so many people coming together to raise money for such an important and worthwhile cause."

To enter, each team of four plus a designated driver, is asked to pay a £50 registration fee, plus £800 in sponsorship. Register online at www.welsh3peaks.co.uk or call 029 2053 2276 for more information.

ABOVE: Over 5,000 people have taken on the Welsh 3 Peaks challenge in the last 16 years, raising £1.32million for Ty Hafan.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Meet Colorado

COLORADO is one of our older boys here, but he hasn't been told that! He is a big lad, and full of fun; he loves his toys and he would like a big box full of toys in his new home.

He still loves his walks and would enjoy living with someone who is reasonably active.

Colorado mixes with other dogs, but does keep to himself. He can live with children of 14 years and over, and this also includes visiting children.

If you can offer Colorado, or any of our lovely dogs a home, call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend. We are open 12pm-4pm every day except Monday.

Linda Feagan,
Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust, Bridgend

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Out and About with The GEM

Miller and Lord construct fine offering in The Lego Movie!

FILMS made from playthings of my youth aren't all that rare; after all, *GI Joe, He-Man* and *Battleships* have all made the leap onto the silver screen, while Ridley Scott is apparently planning to make a Monopoly film.

The next on the list of toys in cinemas comes in *The Lego Movie*, which sees Emmet (voiced by Chris Pratt), an ordinary Lego figure, mistaken for the 'MasterBuilder' when President Business (Will Ferrell) tries to destroy the world

He finds himself recruited by Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks) into a mission to stop Business, but it soon becomes apparent Emmet is in over his head…

There are plenty of reasons to dismiss *The Lego Movie* out of hand; after all, the above mentioned-films derived from a toy source have hardly been shining examples of quality cinema, and also just how engaging a story can you generate from what are essentially interlocking pieces of plastic.

So it's a testament to the skills of those involved that the finished product of *The Lego Movie* is easily one of the most inventive, laugh-out-loud funny, irreverent and charming films in recent memory; a real triumph of a movie that manages to bridge the generational gap with effortless aplomb.

The premise, that Lego figures live in their own world where they live an almost North Korea-esque life of conformity, is a clever one, allowing for numerous in-jokes about the nature of playing with Lego and what it means to you. Our window into the world is Emmett, an everyman in every way, for whom a chance encounter changes his life.

It's not a story that rips up the rule book, staying close to the traditional 'kids film' message that you can be who you want to be, regardless of how society perceives you, an empowering message of self-reliance. Yet while this could have been delivered ham-fistedly, creating tonally-jarring experience, here Phil Lord and Christopher Miller (who also direct) manage to sugar the pill so that there is never any feeling you're being spoken down to.

The pair have previous in animation, having helmed *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, while also handling live-action direction with *21 Jump Street*, and the film captures both the former's knowing wink while capturing the slightly bonkers comedy of the latter, and it's a mix that is wholly satisfying.

Visually the film has a wonderful use of CGI, with some thrilling action set-pieces and some clever sight gags that may feel random but fit incredibly well within the world they've created. It looks incredible, and, like most animation, the 3D option of the film gives you more depth and substance.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

The voice cast is top notch, comprising of some of the finest comedic actors working today. Chris Pratt (who is soon to go stellar with his role in Marvel's *Guardians of the Galaxy*) gives Emmett a likeable quality, while Elizabeth Banks, Morgan Freeman and Will Ferrell are all top-notch support.

Pick of the bunch, however, are Will Arnett, whose Batman tickles the funny bone in so many ways, and Liam Neeson's Good Cop/Bad Cop, creating the finest split personality animation character yet!

It bridges the age gap well, the jokes hitting home for both younger viewers and those who've been building their blocks for a while, with a humorous nod to the conventions of Lego, especially the more trickier sets and the different types of Lego that perhaps haven't quite caught the public's imagination.

For all its quirkiness, it's the strength of the story that really makes for such a magical experience; simplistic but enough of a canvas for the bells and whistles to create such an incredible offering, with a denouement that manages to pull at the heartstrings without becoming overly mawkish - *The Lego Movie* is an incredibly charming piece of work.

VERDICT - *Well worth a watch, whether you have youngsters or not, The Lego Movie is a magical film - witty, warm and thoroughly charming. It looks amazing, tickles the funny bone in a million ways, and the voice cast are on fine form; you'd be hard-pressed to find a more satisfying cinema trip:*

Essential viewing.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* (2009), *Toy Story* (1995)

News from All Saints

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service on Sunday, February 23 at 10am with worship items suitable for all ages on the theme of 'Don't worry – trust God!' Creche facilities are available and refreshments served afterwards.

All Saints is holding a pancake lunch on Shrove Tuesday, March 4 between 12 and 2pm.

The entry cost of £7.50 for adults and £3 for children includes both savoury and sweet pancakes and tea or coffee, and there will also be a raffle and tombola.

The lunch takes place on the gallery in the church, with all proceeds to the church re-ordering fund. Later there is a praise and pancake party, with contemporary worship music led by the All Saints Worship Group at 6.30pm.

All are welcome at both events. For more information, visit www.all-saintspenarth.org.uk.

Quaker sessions

AS part of a series of public events promoting Quakerism, Bridgend Quakers will be holding a series of workshops.

The next session will be held at Bridgend Quaker Meeting House, 87 Park Street, 7pm to 9pm on February 25. *The topic will be Quaker Testimonies revisited.*

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, February 27 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall, when the speaker will be Sheena Crossley talking about containers.

New members welcome.

Age Connect

AGE Connect Cardiff and Vale hold a monthly health and diet club at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry.

Free advice available.

The next session is on Wednesday February 26, 11am to 12 midday.

Contact 01446 732385 or just go along.

Big Screen

THE Big Screeen's next film for this season is *Le Week-End* (cert 15) on Thursday, February 27 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

A British married couple Nick (Jim Broadbent) and Meg (Lindsay Duncan) decide to take a week-end in Paris in an attempt to revive their ailing marriage. Between visits to old familiar sights and their posh hotel and restaurant the cracks are revealed.

Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

Choir concert

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir is performing a concert on Satuday, March 1 at Holy Cross Church in Church Street, Cowbridge, in aid of the Mayor of Cowbridge's chosen charities – Macmillan Cancer Care and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Tickets, £10, are available from David Barnes' shop in Cowbridge and also from Cowbridge Town Hall (opening hours only); from Mr Frank Maynard on 01446 772454; or any member of the choir.

Doors open at 6.30pm and the concert will commence at 7pm. It is the choir's first conert in 2014.

Tax help for elderly

TAXHELP for Older People will hold a free advice surgery at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF1 1RB on Monday, March 3 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Big farmland bird count at Amelia Trust

BINOCULARS were essential for identifying as many birds as possible as part of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trusts Big Farmland Bird Count 2014, held at Amelia Trust Farm on Sunday, February 2, when 24 species of birds were identified.

They included fieldfares, a snipe, a mistle thrush and a treecreeper.

"We had a good turnout for the event and had a beautiful display from the starlings and fieldfares in their hundreds," said Roseanne Hennessy, Care Farm volunteer co-ordinator (environment).

The charity's working farm, set in 160 acres of countryside, includes 28 acres of woodlands and a variety of habitats.

It was established in 1991 to support and educate vulnerable and disadvantaged people, and has close working relationships with local further education colleges; Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) and Bridgend College.

PACT MEETINGS

BUTTRILLS PACT, The Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, March 6 at 6.30pm.

Coffee and chat meeting, Blue Anchor Inn, East Aberthaw, February 25 at 11am.

Coffee and chat meeting, The Red Lion, Bonvilston, on February 25 at 11am

£25
GEM
FACEBOOK
PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for February 13 is:

Elaine Bowen

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was:

February 16th

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

Our lucky winner has chosen to spend their prize with...

Boxes and Busts - The Bead Room

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

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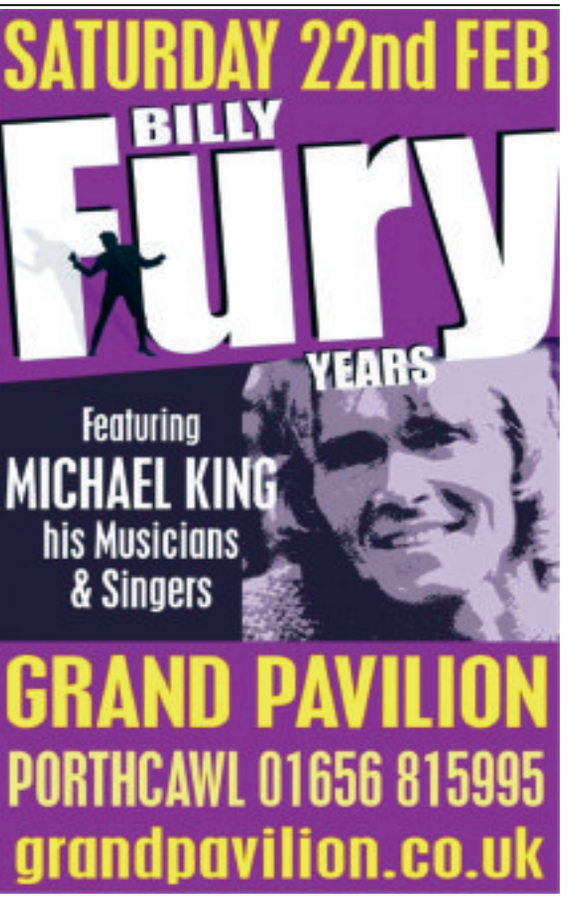

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Universal credit will 'benefit' the public

FOR too long, too many people have been trapped on benefits and the Government have been working very hard over the last four years to ensure that going to work pays.

The worst consequence of a life on benefits has been depicted (possibly unfairly) by Channel 4's programme Benefits Street.

I have been able to relate to this view from the stories I have been told by constituents. The worst case being one local resident who worked part time.

She showed me that by working an extra hour per week, she would end up losing some benefits which will result in them being worse off.

This constituent wanted to do the right thing – go out to work and provide for her family – but felt that the system was against her.

Thankfully this is changing with the introduction of Universal Credit.

The benefit system is a very complicated picture and surely everyone should be better off in work.

Under the previous system – that is now changing – when a benefit claimant wants to increase their working hours, the system often works against them.

Universal Credit will help the poorest families, making them on average £163 a month better off. There are 200,000 such people in Wales. Their financial position will improve further the more they work – as it should be.

These changes also come on top of the increase in the personal tax allowance to £10,000 from this April.

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

This means that anyone working full time on the minimum wage will see their tax bill reduced by two-thirds, which is a huge saving.

This is the Westminster Government trying to ensure that those who can work, do work and are supported by the tax system.

Unemployment in the Vale has fallen by 27 per cent since May 2010 to a claimant count rate of 3.9 per cent, which means that finding work is getting a little easier.

It is clear that the long term economic plan is having a positive impact here in Barry and the rest of the Vale.

The numbers of people who have come off disability benefits have also reduced significantly. It is only right that people with disabilities are supported properly to get back to work.

Council taxes in England were also frozen and I was disappointed that the Welsh Government chose not to use the money to do the same here in Wales.

Foodbanks do an excellent job in bringing people back into the state support system. Their three parcel limit is vital to point the people at their lowest ebb to those agencies that can help.

I have asked those who operate foodbanks locally to refer their cases to me. I have intervened in delayed benefit payments on several occasions; I want to help more.

It is right and proper that the most vulnerable should be protected. We need to protect and support people who cannot work.

The system is changing to establish who needs help to get back to work and who, even with help, will not be able to work.

We inherited a broken welfare system where a something for nothing culture had developed among some people. The system must be sensitive but not a soft touch.

I will be doing all I can to ensure that we provide support to the long-term unemployed in the Vale who in the past have been left behind when there are opportunities, so they get the chance to get into the workplace.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D814:

- **£2,000: 353325** .
- **£10:** 182264, 923919, 384511, 482202, 546450, 203099, 354901, 750974, 597155, 134032, 419017, 247863, 864447, 697947, 473885, 744540, 211482, 827804, 104, 789.
- **£5:** 495374, 480917, 695022, 849892, 469209, 647404, 279188, 971632, 119921, 474856, 712032, 446998, 954029, 364517, 731919, 615221, 858875, 662217, 206315, 813007, 454973, 216187, 817962, 100974, 606017, 752835, 568424, 850689, 720471, 485740, 144330, 693094, 491796, 672069, 106815, 190224, 602680, 846560, 203470, 394726, 648039, 248019, 359311, 7 24938, 730625, 185892, 561405, 272230, 421987, 218262, 587904, 276894, 299790, 655497, 407476, 816905, 759792, 732920, 661485, 209.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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A stunning setting for a special occasion.

Vale Resort unveils its 'fairytale venue'

A HISTORIC Welsh castle is reopening as a wedding venue for the 2014 season, following the first phase of a multi-million pound refurbishment to restore it to its former glory.

Hensol Castle has been closed to the public for almost a decade and only used as a stage set for the television series *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock* and *Torchwood*. However, thanks to the investment, it will be open as a wedding venue from April, catering for wedding parties of up to 180 guests, who can hire it exclusively.

The revamped venue, which will hold a wedding licence, consists of four ceremony and reception rooms, together with a marquee in the central courtyard.

Located in Hensol Park, next door to the Vale Resort, the 400-year-old castle has original architecture, turrets, gothic towers and feature staircases. The castle's restoration is in keeping with its 17th century heritage in gothic style, and all of the conference suites are named after previous famous owners of the castle.

The former stately home, situated six miles outside of Cardiff city centre and three minutes off junction 34 of the M4, is set within landscaped gardens and has a 15-acre lake and serpentine pond.

Paul Beddoe, sales and marketing director of the Vale Resort, said: "Hensol Castle really is a unique place and a must-see for any bride and groom. Not only will they have an idyllic setting to create their picture-perfect day, but they will also be looked after by a team of experts who are experienced in delivering the highest standards of wedding service.

"The investment into the careful restoration and refurbishment at Hensol Castle is something we are very proud of. It's like stepping back in time when you visit the castle. The quaint courtyard is perfect for an intimate drinks reception, and the wooden jetty stretching into our stunning lake is a stand-out spot for some striking photos."

Dating back to the 17th century, the Grade I listed castle's previous owners included Samuel Richardson, who is credited with introducing the threshing machine to agriculture, and Benjamin Hall who oversaw the construction of the Big Ben clock tower in London.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(B4265 GILESTON CROSS TO BURTON HILL) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2014

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location The area of the B4265 from its junction at Gileston Cross at grid 301752 167805 to its junction at Burton at grid 303448 167805. A distance of approximately 1800m.

Location The road to Llancadle from its junction with B4265 in a northerly direction at grid 303246 167778 for a distance of approximately 25m.

Location The un-named road adjacent to Four Cross Garage running under the rail line for a distance of approximately 70m in a southerly direction.

In addition, the Order known as **"The Vale of Glamorgan Council (B4265 Llantwit Major to Burton Bridge) (40mph and 50mph Speed Restriction) Order 2012"**, will be suspended in part for the duration of the works.

Reason To allow adjacent highway construction works to be undertaken.

Duration From 06:00Hrs on Friday 28th February 2014, for a maximum period of 18 months, or until such time as the 30mph Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

Dated this 20th day of February 2014.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2014
GORCHYMYN (CYFYNGU CYFLYMDRA I 30 M.Y.A.) (DROS DRO) (B4265 RHWNG CROES SILSTWN A THYLE'R BRITWN)

Bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob pŵer galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn ymhen o leiaf saith niwrnod ar ôl dyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn i'r diben cyffredinol a nodwyd yn yr atodlenni isod:-

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni chaiff unrhyw un yrru na chaniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru'n gyflymach na 30 milltir yr awr yn y mannau a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad Y darn o briffordd B4265 rhwng y gyffordd â Chroes Silstwn wrth gyfeirnod grid 301752 167805 a'r gyffordd wrth ymyl Y Britwn wrth gyfeirnod grid 303448 167805, sef pellter o ryw 1800m.

Lleoliad Y ffordd i Lancadle o'r gyffordd â phriffordd B4265 wrth gyfeirnod grid 303246 167778 ymlaen am oddeutu 25m i gyfeiriad y gogledd.

Lleoliad Y ffordd ddienw wrth ymyl Four Cross Garage sy'n rhedeg o dan y rheilffordd am ryw 70m i gyfeiriad y de.

Yn ogystal â hyn, bydd y Gorchymyn a adwaenir fel **"Gorchymyn Cyfyngu ar Gyflymdra (40 m.y.a. a 50 m.y.a.) (B4265 rhwng Llanilltud Fawr a Phont Y Britwn) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2012"**, yn cael ei atal yn rhannol tra bod y gwaith yn cael ei wneud.

Rheswm Er mwyn adeiladu priffordd gerllaw.

Cyfnod O 06:00 ar ddydd Gwener 28 Chwefror 2014 ymlaen, am 18 mis yn unig, ynteu hyd nes i'r holl arwyddion traffig 30 m.y.a. gael eu symud, pa un bynnag a fo'r dyddiad cyntaf.

Dyddiedig 20 Chwefror 2014

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA

VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

Roderick (63) wins the Ferris Entertainment acting scholarship!

A sixty-three-year old Vale man is one of the winners of the GEM/Ferris Entertainment scholarship for 2014.

Roderick Mair from Dinas Powys won the male acting award at a masterclass held at the Mount Sorrel Hotel in Barry.

Peter Ferris told The GEM: "It was another incredible masterclass day. However, Roderick, and Chelsea from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, just had that little something extra which won them the scholarships.

"We are really excited about the age range because it doesn't matter whether you are 14 or 114, the skills required for screen acting and the TV industry are the same.

"Soaps and dramas have roles for all ages – mums, dads, grandparents and kids.

"Our agency is constantly getting casting requests for what the directors describe as 'traditional grandparents' which means the white haired Werthers Original types or the young-at heart grandparent about to go on an adventure.

"Our training prepares students for professional TV and film work."

ENCOURAGED

The female winner was 14-year-old Chelsea Sullivan from Barry.

Chelsea said: "I was encouraged to go by Carmen Brooks who runs Razzle Dazzle Theatre School on Barry Island.

ABOVE: From left to right – Peter Ferris of Ferris Entertainment, Roderick Mair, Nick Benetar, manager of the Mount Sorrel Hotel, and Chelsea Sullivan.

"It was very nerve-wracking at the masterclass, but they were very helpful. I'm used to acting on a stage, but performing in front of a camera is different.

"We had to perform a scene from the film *Step Mom*. It was the one where they are preparing the table for dinner.

"After we had finished, Peter plugged the camera into the TV screen and was able to give us advice.

"When he announced that I was one of the winners, I was thrilled."

Peter added: "As long as you can do what is required at the audition and have screen acting experience, then it is your life experience that can get you the role.

"Audition technique and screen acting are what we are great at teaching quickly and we can get people work through our acting agency.

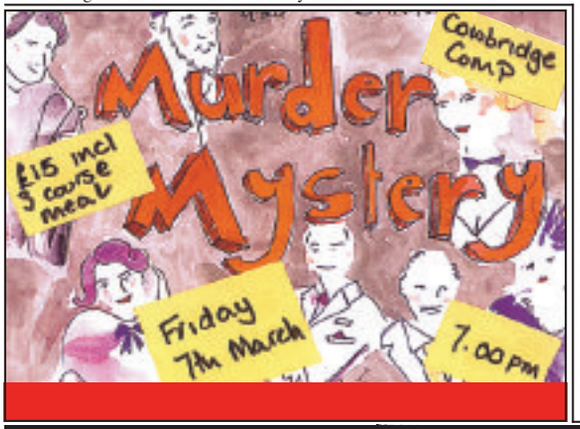
"With most commercials being filmed in a day and actors being paid from £2,000 to £25,000 for a day's work, some people have found it a 'top up' for their pension!

"We would also like as ever to thank everyone at the GEM, including Tim Chapman, for all their support with the GEM/Ferris Entertainment Scholarship as we continue to search out new talent and inspire the community.

"We would like to to thank every one at the Mount Sorrel Hotel for looking after us so well."

An example of films with people of all ages who were trained at Ferris Entertainment Masterclasses throughout the UK are available to view at *www.ferrisentertainment.tv*.

The next masterclass is on February 22. If you are interested in joining screen and TV acting masterclasses, Peter can be contacted at info@ferrisentertainment.com or on 07801 493 133.



WHAT'S ON – IN BRIEF

Energy advice

FREE advice on cutting energy bills is available at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, February 25 (10am to 12 noon). Contact 01446 732385 or Freephone 0808 808 2244 for more information.

Rhoose talk

RHOOSE and District History Society are holding another of their monthly meetings on Friday, February 28, at 7.30pm in the lesser hall of Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose. This month, we have Joseph Payne, whose topic will be 'The history of the Royal Mint'.

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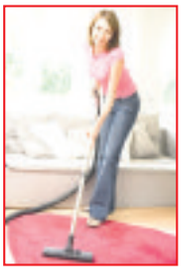
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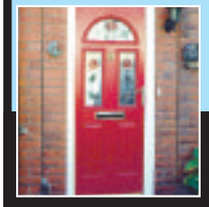
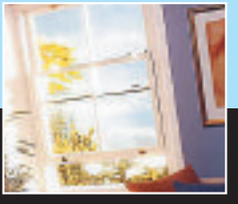

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However, aesthetics aren't the only consideration. To build a room that you will love all year round, technical design is crucial.
At Securahome, our experts take the time to discover exactly how you will use your orangery, before creating a 3D design to help bring your vision to life.
To cut your carbon footprint and ensure that your new orangery is as comfortable at Christmas as it is at Easter, demands the highest possible thermal efficiency.
At Securahome we use only the latest ultra-efficient glass in our orangeries; then we build in insulated floors, ceilings and walls to make the room as thermally efficient as possible with today's building technology.
When it comes to the roof, we can build slate or tiled roofs, add in a lantern or skylights, or create a full glass roof for a spectacular view of the stars. To make sure that view stays uninterrupted, we can even add in self-cleaning glass.
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Children's Choices

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Ruckleys going from strength to strength...

AFTER eight years of trading, Ruckleys are still going from strength to strength.

In July 2013, they moved to larger premises, still on Holton Road, at the top of Thompson Street opposite Tan y Hyde.

As well as the usual prams, cots, clothing, uniform, shoes, christening wear and accessories, they now stock a comprehensive range of bridesmaids, flower girls and pageboy outfits – all at highly competitive prices.

Ruckleys has just taken delivery of the much sought-after, prestigious range of iCandy, and to celebrate, they are offering ten per cent off all iCandy prams and accessories ordered this weekend, Saturday, February 22, 9am-5.30pm, Sunday, February 23, 11am-3pm.

Come along and grab yourself a discount by opening a savings plan with a small deposit.

You won't be disappointed. Call in to Ruckleys, 54 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HB or call 01446 700006.

Ruckleys

10% off all iCandy orders this Saturday & Sunday

We have moved to:
45 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HB
(OPP. TAN Y HYDE) Tel: 01446 700006
www.ruckleys.co.uk

NEIL GIMBEL TAEKWONDO

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Local Taekwondo School recruiting for 2014

If you are looking for a way to encourage your children to take part in more physical activities, learn self-defence, work on discipline or gain confidence, it is worth considering a Martial Arts School with classes designed for youngsters.

We teach in a fun and friendly environment and offer a specifically designed program to suit different ages and skill levels. The Junior Taekwondo curriculum (6 years +) has been specially designed and adapted for children and will help them develop valuable life skills, raise their fitness levels, teach them self-defence, sport Taekwondo and self-confidence.

Classes are run on Mondays and Thursdays at the Cowbridge Leisure Centre and Tuesdays and Fridays at the Porthcawl Y Centre.

Your Child may have already expressed an interest in Martial Arts and Taekwondo is a fantastic activity for children! We are always excited to get new students and train the next generation of young martial artists so contact us now to book their first FREE introductory lesson or visit our website for more information.

Contact Neil on: 07855 487404 or visit neilgimbel-tkd.blogspot.com

Exciting venue for girly fun at Sparkle!

Sparkle
Children's Beauty Parlour, Party Venue
Photography Studio and Gift Shop
NOW OPEN
Half Term Offer
Visit us in our enchanting beauty parlour, dance in our sparkly grotto, and get £1 off any hairstyle or nail design.
2 Church Street, Llanwit Major 01446 677060 info@sparklellantwitmajor.com

SPARKLE is an exciting new venue for girls, offering parties, make-overs, photographs, and much more.

All little girls love to be pampered and from the moment they step into our enchanting pink salon, they will be in girly heaven.

As parents, we know how stressful children's parties can be but at one of our Sparkle parties, you can sit back and relax with a coffee while we crimp and curl hair, decorate nails, and entertain the guests.

Our party packages also include an individual photograph of each party guest and a disco in our sparkly grotto. It's sure to be a party your little girl and all her friends will remember! And to make the party even easier for you, we can also provide party bags and food boxes.

Although we have a standard party package, we are happy to discuss any alternative arrangements. We also offer more traditional parties and our sparkly grotto and party kitchen are available for hire. If you decide a Sparkle party is not for you, we can provide boys' or girls' pre-filled party bags and food boxes to take away (or be delivered for a small charge).

So as a special treat, why not come and visit us this half term? We have walk-in appointments available for nail art, hairstyles, and glitter tattoos.

You can also book a novelty portrait session in our photography studio, or choose from our selection of girly gifts.

For more information or bookings, contact us on 01446 677060 or email info@sparklellantwitmajor.com.

Winter fun arrives at Camp Coconuts!

PARENTS needn't worry about keeping their children entertained during the February half term – because Camp Coconuts has it all under control!

Coconuts Play and Party Centre in Barry is offering mums and dads a cost-effective way to entertain their children in the school holiday from Monday, February 24 to Friday, February 28.

For just £23 per day, parents can drop off children aged between four and 12 at the play centre. Children will be provided a nutritious start to their day with breakfast, later followed by lunch, tea and snacks which are all included in the daily fee.

Over the course of the week, children will enjoy a variety of fun-packed activities including arts and crafts, games, cooking, dance and story time. Camp Coconuts also has its own outdoor play area which is perfect for football, parachute games and den making, and the children have exclusive use of the huge play frame before 10am.

A visit from Maverick Stables has been arranged so the children can be given lessons on horse riding and grooming. In addition, they will be taken on trips to Barry Island and Cosmeston Lakes near Penarth to help increase their knowledge of the local area.

"As a mum myself, I can understand the stresses parents face having to organise engaging activities or childcare for their young ones during school holidays," said Abeer Bafaqih, owner of Coconuts Play and Party Centre and Daisy Day Nursery.

"Camp Coconuts is the perfect opportunity for parents to drop off their children in a safe environment supervised by a team of fully qualified staff. Even if the weather's bad we have our own base room and activities are planned to ensure the children are always entertained in a great space for them to enjoy a bounty of fun activities."

Camp Coconuts, on Sully Moors Road in Barry, is open throughout the February half term from Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm. A one-off £25 registration fee is required. Places are limited to 24 per day, so if you'd like to book a place, call 01446 724940 and ask for Ceri Stokes or email ceri@daisydaynursery.com

Camp Coconuts will run during all the school holidays this year, with the exception of the Christmas break.

coconuts
Nuts About Fun

Fun all round at Coconuts!
THE PLAY AND PARTY CENTRE IN BARRY
Class Party only £199 for up to 40 kids, including Play and Full Buffet. Payable on booking. Weekday Termtime only.
Check out our promotion in Coconuts and sign up to The Coconuts Club! Be first to hear by e-mail, direct into your inbox!
Tel: 01446 740404
Go to www.nutsaboutfun.com to find out more!
Situated off the McDonalds roundabout in Sully/Barry.

Helping children focus on a bright new future

POOR eyesight can have a significant effect on children's ability to learn and on their behaviour – yet often goes unrecognised by teachers, parents and by children themselves – over a million children will return to school with poor vision.

A free sight test may give every child the ability to see clearly, learn effectively and fulfill their career aspirations.

Up to one million children in the UK currently have an undetected vision problem. *(Statistics provided by the Eyecare Trust and based on DCSF 2009 School Census 0-12 year olds).*

Research shows that around 20 per cent of school-aged children have an undiagnosed vision problem – that's one in five children. *(Professor David Thomson, City University, London).*

Over 90 per cent of children visit a dentist regularly, while only 53 per cent of children have ever had an eye examination. *(Johnson & Johnson, Vision Care Survey 2009).*

A total of 84 per cent of parents agree that improved vision would have a positive impact on their child's performance at school. *(Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Survey 2009).*

At Jones & Jones, proper sight test is free for all children under the age of 16. Why not book an appointment for your children today?

For appointments, call 01446 400015, or visit us online at www.jonesandjones.org.uk.

JONES & JONES
OPTOMETRISTS
see AHEAD

For appointments:
01446 400015
Find out more:
www.jonesandjones.org.uk/back-to-school
10 High Street, Barry CF62 7DZ

Children's Choices

GEM Reader Competition

What's your favourite meal?

Fish finger sandwiches? Spaghetti bolognese?

Oscars of Cowbridge are giving one young reader the chance to have their favourite meal featured on the Oscars Young Ones Menu for lots of other children to enjoy too. One winner will be chosen.

OSCARS

The winner and their family will then be invited to **Oscars** for a meal up to the value of £60.00.

All you have to do is tell us...

What is your favourite meal?

My favourite meal is _____

My name is _____

I am _____ years old.

My parent/guardian's name is:

_____

and telephone _____

Please post to Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL or you can email us your entry at gem-sales@tindlenews.co.uk

Closing date for entries is Friday 28th February.

Enthuse children with the many activities on offer!

THE choice of activities and interests for children to pursue is greater than ever.

Many parents want their children to be more active, creative and stimulated than simply spending time on an iPad or tablet.

Learning how to use up-to-date gadgets is important, but most parents don't want to see their offspring hand-cuffed to a tablet for hours on end.

So what are the alternatives? What are the choices children have?

Well, there are play centres for youngsters to run off their excess energy; party centres with entertainment and activities laid on; theatre, dance and performing groups.

Rather than being passive, children are presented with new ideas, meet new people and develop valuable skills.

Building a child's confidence is one of the main aims of theatre and performing groups.

They can even be added to a child's *c.v.* when they leave school or are seeking employment.

Some children want to learn an instrument – if they are talented it could lead to a career, but even if that isn't an aim, they have a skill that can give them a pleasure for life.

Throughout the Vale and Bridgend there are numerous sports clubs, many featured weekly in The GEM, at which youngsters are welcomed. The people who give up their time to run these clubs are dedicated to providing good coaching in a friendly environment.

Youngsters experience playing as a team alongside their friends.

Some children are not academic and, for them, excelling at sport is a vital route to developing their confidence.

So there are no excuses for children when half term arrives – there's more than enough to keep children occupied.

And when the term resumes, there are local businesses which will do everything to support school children with clothing and equipment.

The help is out there – you only have to look!

Taking care of children

PASSMORES Solicitors specialise in a wide range of public law and private law children's matters, including social services involvement, residence proceedings, and contact with children.

Care proceedings

If your child has been taken into care, or if it looks like this may happen, our solicitors will be able to advise on the best course of action, and start the process of bringing your family back together.

Contact and residence

PASSMORES can assist you in reaching an agreement about the residence, contact and parental responsibility for your children.

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BMS - for all your musical needs

HALF-TERM is a great time to visit The Barry Music Shop, as there are lots of new products and special offers now available.

The Barry Music Shop is one of the first music shops in the UK to receive the brand new Line6 'AMPLIFi' which is a fantastic new product from Line6. This new amplifier connects to your iPad or iPhone via bluetooth where you can use the AMPLIFi connect application that has fantastic settings, sounds, EFX and lots more – plus it has unique speaker arrangement built into the front of the cabinet!

You can even just use it like a Hi-Fi player – no cables to connect up to your iPhone or iPad, just awesome sound!

We have also just taken delivery of the new Studiomaster XPX series of active speakers which boast 600watts RMS true output power, yet they weigh only 17kg, one of the most powerful, but lightest speakers available on the market today – and costing only £339 each!

For something a little bit smaller, we have the all-new 2.1 bluetooth multi-media speaker system – a compact system with integral USB/SD card audio media player and FM tuner with main SUB unit with RCA line input, bluetooth and an integral amplifier coupled to two satellite mid-top speakers.

This is for use with PC or MAC, multi-track recording and playback or a stand-alone home entertainment system – special introductory price of £45!

For the guitarists, we have lots of special offer discounts on a whole range of guitars, new bass guitars which have just come into stock, plus some great discounts on multi-pack guitar strings, with a free guitar strap as well!

For new budding guitarists, we have a good selection of quality used guitars that are being sold as a pack with either a Line6 SpideriV-15 watt guitar amplifier or the Line6 Micro Spider amplifier, which also runs on battery and has a microphone socket as well; all these at very attractive prices for those on a budget!

We are open from 9.30am right through to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday and look forward to seeing you soon!

THE BARRY MUSIC SHOP

The Specialist Music Shop in the Vale of Glamorgan!

We are stockists of Professional Instruments for both new and seasoned players!

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www.facebook.com/The Barry Music Shop

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ADULTS FREE

SEE PAGE 20 FOR MORE IDEAS ON HOW TO OCCUPY YOUR CHILDREN!

Children's Choices

'Where has that year gone?' ASKS GIGGLES STORE

WELL, we can't believe we have been open a year! They say time flies when you're having fun and there's plenty of that at Giggles.

For those of you who haven't discovered us yet, we are a small family-run business situated in the popular High Street, Barry, shopping area.

We offer toys and gifts for boys and girls, with many items ideally priced for birthday gifts.

Our ranges include wooden toys, books – both Welsh and English, pocket money toys, soft toys and dolls, puzzles and games, arts and crafts and cards (Welsh and English) plus wrapping paper.

Also, brand new to Giggles is our baby and child clothing ranges, so if you are looking for that new baby present, we have lots on offer here at Giggles.

To further help you and your little ones enjoy your shopping experience at Giggles, we have a play table for your little ones to play at. Gift vouchers are also available.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their support and encouragement over the past year, without you we couldn't have done it!

We have made lots of new friends, both big and small, and look forward to making more.

Thank you again. Find us on Facebook and Twitter – Giggles Barry.

giggles

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ALL ABOARD THE STAGECOACH!

LOCAL couple Rob and Helene Reynolds run the award-winning Stagecoach schools in Cowbridge and Bridgend, where 320 children enjoy weekly drama, dance and singing sessions.

At the start of the New Year, they also became owners of Stagecoach Cardiff.

At Stagecoach, exciting classes teach children to act, sing and dance in an environment where they thrive, building confidence and skills for life; and because Stagecoach is among the largest network of performing arts schools in the world, it is a well-respected part of a child's CV.

Added to that are presentations, awards, progress reports, Young Performer magazine, regular inspections. Plus, there are opportunities to take LAMDA acting and speech awards, group Performance Arts Awards, and professional work thorough the Stagecoach Agency.

There is no doubt why Stagecoach has been a leader in performing arts education for over 25 years.

For information visit www.stagecoach.co.uk or call Rob/Helene on 01446 772727.

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Armitage 3 seater traditional sofa RRP £1699 Sale £849 — extra 20% off £679 the sofa

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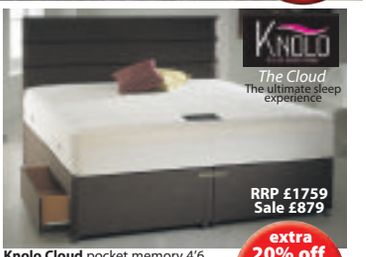
Clement. Divan set. double divan with memory foam and traditional fillings. RRP £639 Sale £319 — extra 20% off £249 the bed



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Knolo Cloud pocket memory 4'6 standard divan set. 1500 Pocket sprung encapsulated border, natural bamboo cover, luxury pillow top. 10 Year Warranty. — extra 20% off £699 the bed

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CHURCH ROAD, BARRY
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- Gas central heating & double glazing
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- Would make an ideal investment or 1st purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

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CHURCH COTTAGE, RHOOSE
- Beautifully maintained & extended 3 bedroom semi detached property
- Original cottage dating back to around early 19th century & extended in approx 1980's
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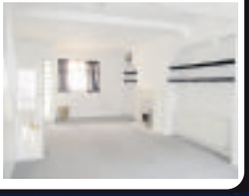
- Balcony accessed from master bedroom with views over Rhoose
- Offered freehold and open to reasonable offers

£255,000



MAIN STREET, BARRY
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- Good sized rear gardens
- Offered with no chain

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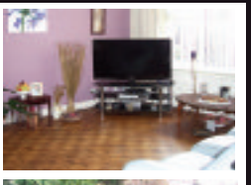

BRYN AWEL, BUTRILLS ROAD, BARRY
- A 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
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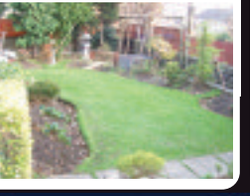

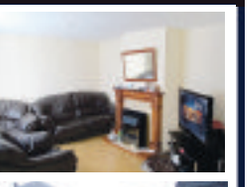

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Barry Seconds put Llandaff to the sword

BARRY Seconds welcomed the visit of Llandaff on a blustery February afternoon as they continued their league campaign.

Manager Ken Chow passed the pitch fit to play after the second morning inspection, and coach Rhidian Scott was able to recall Lee Jones in the back row after his unavailability last time out. Scott and Mepham formed a new half-back partnership while Rolfe continued as captain.

In a gale-force wind and heavy under-foot conditions, Barry played the perfect game in the first half. With the elements behind him, Einan Scott kicked expertly to give his side the territory to threaten the Llandaff line early on.

The visitors' defence held firm for the first Barry foray, but fell foul of the official's whistle soon after – something that would repeat itself for the full 80 minutes – and Scott kicked the home side ahead with two well-struck penalties.

Barry were creating some superb momentum going forward, with a combination of raw forward power and finesse from the backs, but their efforts were initially in vain due to some ill-discipline, with Kyle Case the main culprit.

Just when the whitewash seemed out of reach, a series of forward drives saw the green-and-whites edge close to the line, and James Hollister burrowed over to score. Scott was unable to add the extras from the corner.

With the wind in their sails, both literally and metaphorically speaking, Barry went for the jugular. The line-out was functioning superbly, with Oaten and Case outstanding, while the ball-carrying power of Cordle and Williams were exploited to the full, allowing Ethan Dix to race over for a converted try.

Sensing the possibility of a bonus-point, Barry pressed again. With the forwards giving the perfect platform for the backs to demonstrate their ball-handling skills, a neat exchange in midfield from a set piece saw Danny Ryan dive under the posts. Scott's conversion was a formality.

Scott kicked another three points with his boot to bring the game almost out of sight for the visitors, but the management knew that they would be up against the elements after the interval.

Despite the injection of fresh replacements in the shape of Gallivan and Evans, they were unable to stop a well-executed catch-and-drive move which saw Llandaff nearing the Barry line, before the ball was spread out for them to score in the corner.

Llandaff sensed a comeback and pressed on, but unlike the Barry juggernaught in the first half they found chances harder to come by.

The defensive effort, co-ordinated by Rolfe and ably assisted by Goodfellow, Oaten and the colossal Lee Jones, denied Llandaff any clear-cut chances and instead it was Barry who scored next.

From a turnover ball in their own half, the Barry backs strung together a superb flowing move, offloading with consummate ease, which ended with Dix crossing for his second try. Despite the missed conversion the bonus point was in the bag.

More indiscipline from the visitors saw them reduced to fourteen men, and Barry took advantage to score a fifth try via David Williams.

The final score was 40-5, and this was a fair reflection on the domination by the home side, who handled the elements – and the official – better than their counterparts.

The 2nd XV return to action next weekend with a home league match against Clwb Rygbi Caerdydd.

Team: Ryan; Dix, Cordle, Williams, Hamonda; Scott, Mepham; Lundy, Vidal, Hollister; Case, Oaten; Goodfellow, Jones, Rolfe (c). Replacements: Evans, Thomas, Gallivan, Lee. Man-of-the-match: Jones.

KC

Hockey Club are downed by leaders

WITH the Second XI enjoying a weekend off, Penarth Hockey Club pride was left in the hands of the senior side, albeit facing a tricky trip to De Cymru & The Marches 1 divisional leaders Lydney.

After a home defeat to Cardiff & Met 'C' the previous weekend, Penarth travelled to Gloucestershire to play a strong Lydney side that ran out 6-1 winners in the Vale before Christmas.

Despite knowing that this was likely to be one of the hardest games remaining in the second half of their Davis Wood Hockey League campaign, Penarth started well, with James Davis, Tom Haran, Sam Docherty and Dave Stevens switching the ball around at the back to create space further upfield.

With the good passing complemented by good running off the ball, the Bears eventually won a short corner, and their efforts were rewarded when Chris Baker's drag flick, having been parried by the Lydney 'keeper, fell to Phil Lane, who reacted well to knock the ball home.

Shocked at falling behind, Lydney hit back immediately with a superb reverse stick goal from the top of the 'D', but Penarth refused to be overawed, and went straight back up the other end to restore their lead through a good strike from Sam Wooding.

Although the front line of Wooding, Lane, Arthur Jones and Birch worked tirelessly to find space and threaten to Lydney goal, it was the home side who scored next, pulling the teams level for a second time courtesy of a well-worked penalty corner routine just before half-time.

After the break, Lydney upped the pace, forcing the Penarth midfield of skipper Mark Thomas, Chris Baker, Richard Baker and Gareth Herman to work very hard in order to contain the hosts' slick passing game. Their endeavours proved in vain, however, as a freak goal gave Lydney the lead via a cruel deflection off a Penarth player.

Determined to get something from the game, the Vale side pushed forward for an equaliser, but left the back door open and Lydney took full advantage, sneaking in to make it 4-2.

The defeat leaves Penarth in a share of fourth position in their division as they prepare for a visit from third placed Lansdown on Saturday. The Second XI, meanwhile, returns to action with a trip to similarly-placed Abergavenny, who the stole a point from in the early season fixture.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

The Gambits wave goodbye to their promotion hopes

BARRY Chess Club's Gambits had another loss, this time to the North Cardiff Ravens.

Modesty was retained only by Jason Grice, who earned his second consecutive victory to leave us losing by 4-1. This was Jason's best performance of the season as his opponent was rated 300 points above him.

The lessons he has been receiving from Sam White in particular seem to be working. Any hope of promotion is now well and truly gone.

The Bosons also had a first division clash with the Caerphilly Castles. Lee Davis is nothing if not reliable and earned his second consecutive draw, again against a player he expected to defeat, but wins on the lower boards by Steve Cunliffe, Rhys Steele and Ashley Davis gave us a 3.5–1.5 victory.

At the time of writing, this puts the Bosons at the top of the league, until the Cardiff Castles play their next match.

The Camelots did not have a match this week and now find themselves only 0.5 of a point above the Cardiff Pawns who lost 3.1-1.5 against the other Caerphilly team, although now the Camelots have a game in hand and are still to play the Pawns.

That game will go a long way to deciding their relative fates.

This week, I have awarded the game of the week prize to the Barry Chess Club player, Martin Ricketts for his performance against me in the round 10 match of the Barclays Bank Chess League.

Martin and I have been friends and colleagues for more years than I care to remember. When we first met I still had hair and his was considerably darker than now. He is also largely responsible for my playing chess and joining the Barry Chess Club.

Neither of us have been on good form recently. Indeed, the only way I can see a victory is if my opponent fails to turn up! The match started with an offer of a draw before the first piece was moved. Well we were even at that stage!

As the game progressed, it remained deadlocked, and I offered a further two draws, which Martin declined.

With the clock running down, I advanced my bishop to entice him to take the sacrifice. To my great surprise he did take the bait and captured it, allowing me to advance my pawn to the final rank and queen it.

At this time the remaining players guffawed, said its not a draw now! I uttered those words immortalised by John Tabatatai many years ago: "Do you want to resign now mister?".

To which he replied: "No" – leaving me little option but to obtain a mating attack a few moves later.

This was a salutary lesson for Martin in how to turn a draw into a loss!

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards,; whether interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night. For more details visit http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PJ

Bryn Hafren pupil to represent Wales at 'rescue' lifeguard world championships

BRYN HAFREN sixth former Sara Phillips is delighted to have been selected to go to the Rescue 2014 World Life Saving Championships with Bridgend Lifeguards, representing Wales.

ABOVE: Sara Phillips.

The competition is to be held in France, Montpellier, La Grande Motte from September 13-26.

Sara has been competing as a lifeguard since the age of 14 and this is one of the biggest opportunities she has had.

After extremely dedicated training sessions most days of the week her hard work has paid off, she has been chosen to compete in the World Championships! Her training consists of weights, core and tonal strengthening, distance and overall fitness.

Sara said: "I am extremely excited but nervous about this opportunity. I have always lived for adrenaline and I can't wait to compete.

"It scares me knowing I will be against some of the best around the world, but I really can't wait."

Before Sara is able to compete, she has to raise around £400 to get there and enter into the competition, she is hoping to raise some of this from local sponsorship. She hopes to enter several events including the flag sprint, 5K run and boards.

Camille Danielsen and Megan Hewitson

Local tae kwon do students' first competition of year

ABOVE: Medal-winning Luke with Menna, Harri, Josh, Sean and JSTKD team members

ON Sunday, February 9, tae kwon do students from JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness travelled to Hereford to compete at the South Midlands Open Competition.

The JSTKD team is made up of students from classes around the Vale under the instruction of current Taekwondo Open World Champion, Joseph Schembri.

There were over 500 competitors, from all over the UK. As this was the first competition on the circuit, everyone was keen to test their skills for the season ahead.

Luke Pownall of the Llantwit Major Club took part in the Boys' black belt division and fought his way to a bronze medal, narrowly missing out on a higher placing. This was a great result, as Luke has not competed for some time.

The rest of the team fought hard, showing focus and determination throughout the day but sadly just missed out on more medals this time.

Well done to all who took part – Luke Pownall, Menna Burmingham, Harri Burmingham, Ashton Curnick, Josh Edwards, Sean Edwards, Jake Hayvice, Zac Hayvice, Rhys Doel, Lyne Doel, Simon Morgan and Emily Doogue.

To find out more about JSTKD, visit www.jstkd.co.uk.

VW

Shield event proves to be a success!

THE south Wales' special schools 11-a-side challenge shield was a very successful event which was fortunate enough to benefit from dry weather!

The tournament was opened by Huw Lewis, the Minister for Education and Skills, and in the presence of Carwyn Jones, First Minister.

Maes Gwyn from Aberdare won the event and Shield and the runners up were Ysgol Bryn Castell from Bridgend.

The Most Improved award went to Headlands School Penarth.

The Fair Play Award, which is in memory of Tony Phillips, a past President of Bridgend Rotary, was presented to Ysgol Hendre of Neath.

The Shield and medals were sponsored by Derek Gaynor and every player was awarded a medal!

There were 14 gold medals, 14 silver medals and 80 bronze medals.

WM

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Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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- Stair lift/enclosed garden

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- Communal gardens

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- Gardens

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If interested, Homes4U members should bid for these new properties in the usual way, and deadline for all bids is the 26th February 2014.

Should you require further information regarding this new development, please contact Wales & West Housing, Housing Options Team on Freephone 0800 052 2526 or via e-mail **housingoptionsteam@wwha.co.uk.**

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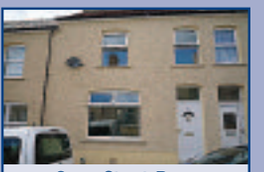

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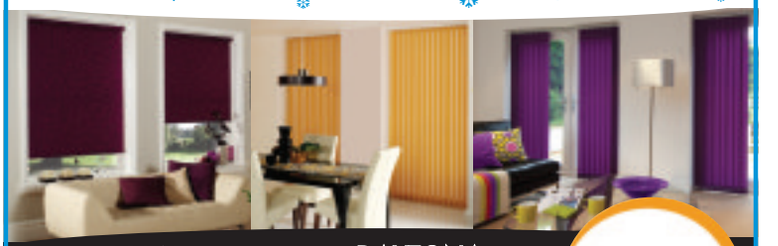

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Family Notices

DARE
Elizabeth May née Collins (Betty)

Peacefully on February 13th after a long illness, Betty aged 84, passed away at Barry Hospital.

Betty was a beloved wife to the late Leonard Dare, a devoted and loving mother to Kim and Sharon and son-in-laws Leslie and the late Robin. A wonderful and cherishing nan to Anthony, Donna and Darren, and a great nan to Joshua, Louis and Caitlin. Betty will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry until her funeral service on Tuesday, February 25th at the Old Village Church, Cadoxton, Barry at 11am, followed by cremation at 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park, Port Road, Barry. Family flowers only please.

Donations may be made at the service in memory of Betty to George Thomas Hospice.

Birthdays

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Family Notices

O'ROURKE
Thomas Aidan

After a long illness, peacefully on February 12th at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Tom, formerly of Lougher Place, St Athan. Loving father, grandfather and great grandfather, will be sadly missed by friends and family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday February 27th, service and cremation 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Prostate Cancer Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

BRADSHAW
Keith

Rosemarie, Christopher, Allyson, daughter-in-law Cath and grandchildren would like to thank all family, friends, rugby and school colleagues for their kind support and messages of sympathy, cards and donations at this sad time and during the long period of Keith's illness. Thanks also to Ward 3, Angelton Clinic for their loving care of Keith. Words cannot express our thanks. Also to Reverend Anthony Beer, Reverend David Bolt and Reverend Penny Williams for their caring support, Penybont services for their professionalism and Bridgend RFC for their catering.

'85 per cent of people are worried about paying heating bill'

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon has pledged support for the 'Mind the Gap' campaign which is aiming to raise awareness of help available for people affected by fuel poverty.

The campaign, run by the national charity Turn2us, focuses on the growing gap between household incomes and the cost of energy bills – and is highlighting the support available to those who are struggling to pay their energy costs.

The campaign features six steps, using Turn2us, free tools and information to help anyone experiencing these problems.

The steps, available at www.turn2us.org.uk/fuel poverty include checking welfare benefits entitlement, searching for grants and schemes to help with bills, getting help to improve energy efficiency and checking energy tariffs.

Research by the charity found that a staggering 85 per cent of people across Wales are worried about paying their energy bills this winter. Of those who struggled with these costs last winter, almost two-thirds (64 per cent) suffered stress as a result and over a third (36 per cent) were forced to cut back on food or skip meals.

Alison Taylor, director of Turn2us, said: "With the cost of living steadily increasing, people feel like they have no option but to borrow money and cut back on essentials to cover costs.

"Our research shows that more needs to be done to help raise awareness of the financial support and help available to manage energy bills.

"With our 'Mind the Gap' campaign we have brought together a number of free Turn2us tools and information, all in one place to help people in financial need maximise their income and manage their energy costs."

For more information, visit www.turn2us.org.uk/fuel poverty.

Sully indoor bowls news

WITH the league games finished, the focus at Sully Bowls is on club competitions which are now in full progress.

The senior triples finalists have been decided and the final will be between M Davies, R Richards and D Mason against P Taylor, R Jones and P Critcher, to be played on Saturday, March 29 or Sunday, March 30.

One other competition to produce finalists is the men's rinks which involves two excellent teams of G Cogbill, K Harris, M Clarke and J Greenslade, against G John, J Ackland, P Critcher and C Ackland, to be played on either Saturday, April 5 or Sunday, April 6.

The open triples is at the semi-final stage and the pairs has progressed to the third round with the senior singles and open singles about to commence.

There are some exciting battles due to take place over the coming weeks culminating in the grand finals weekend of bowls over April 5-6.

The Sully juniors played the quarter-finals of the Junior National Fours on Sunday at Newport IBC against a Rhondda Rink and won by 12 shots, 16 – 4.

The rink of Joe Coles, Jack Killin, Louis Peters and Rhys Phillips played well as a team with each player contributing with superb bowls during the game.

Special mention must go to Jack Killin who, although the most inexperienced player, showed once again his ability to adjust to new surroundings and a different playing surface to have a very good game.

Sully juniors have also qualified for the triples finals by virtue of a bye and both semi-finals and finals of the Triples and Fours will be played at Rhondda IBC on Saturday, March 15.

As a reminder, Sully Stadium is hosting the WIBA National Triples today, Thursday, February 20 at 6pm, and the National Pairs on Sunday, February 23 at 10am.

FP

BRIDGE CLUB

THE results for Cowbridge and District (Llanblethian) Bridge Club for Tuesday, February 18 were as follows:-

1st Dennis Barker and Mary Thomas 63.89%, 2nd Mearl Owen and Debbie Roseyar 63.49%, 3rd Glenda Roberts and Sara Bartlett 63.10%.

GR

Under-16s feel the Force as they warm up for tour!

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-16s are heading for warmer and hopefully drier weather during half term for their much anticipated tour to the Catalan region of Spain. The four day tour will see the boys taking on local opposition in two matches in Barcelona.

The team have worked incredibly hard fundraising for the tour and have also received superb support from many local businesses who have kindly offered sponsorship to the team.

On the pitch, the boys have struggled to get fixtures due to the recent weather. Their last game was on December 8. They have kept training hard and have particularly enjoyed strength and conditioning sessions at Force Strength and Conditioning Llandow.

The touring party will consist of 22 players and six adults, who are looking forward to the challenges of looking after the boys during the tour. Kangaroo courts will be in operation to keep discipline among the boys and all miscreants will be found guilty despite any attempted defence or actual innocence.

The lack of games recently should mean the touring party should be injury free as they hit Spain. The only slight concern remains key No10 and 'points machine' Iestyn Jones, who is recovering from a recent ankle ligament injury but should be able to start rehab on the injury this week.

Touring party: backs - Todd Oldfield, Cieran West, Jake Haslett, Charlie Neale, Liam Sloan, Joe Bunt (captain), Owen Jauncey, Iestyn Jones, Steffen Godwin. Forwards - Julian Boswell, Callum Stephens, Rhodri Miskin, Jack Phillips, Tyler Lewis, Conor Swift, Rhys Cook, Rhys Jeffrey, Morgan Thomas, James Cousins, Will Rees, Max Croucher, Cory Campbell.

After the tour, the team will hope to get back into action in Wales to finish their last season in junior rugby at the club.

Most of the boys have committed to playing youth rugby next season and will form the basis of what promises to be an exciting and strong youth team over the next few seasons.

The team would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped and supported them in making the tour possible.

THE under-16s and some guests from Llantwit Netball Club took part in Junior Warfare 2 at Force Strength and Conditioning as a pre-tour test of strength and speed (*photographs above*).

The competitors faced prowler suicides, which sap the energy from the legs, log lifts, tyre flips and a medley event combining power and speed.

All groups were very keenly contested. The ladies event was won in some style by Rachel Riley, who took on and beat girls two years older

The lightweight boys was edged by Todd Oldfield, who held on despite a strong challenge from Charlie Neale and the heavyweights was won by man mountain James Cousins, who beat Callum Stephens to the title in a tight final race in the Medley.

The team would like to say a massive thank you to Force Strength and Conditioning for their hard work and hospitality in hosting the event.

TIM JONES

Figaro gives Tim his 500th win

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan chalked-up his 500th winner as a trainer when *Figaro* won the principal race at Musselburgh last week.

The five-year-old chestnut gelding, who cost 100,000 guineas, won by half-a-length from *Roman Flight* and was ridden by leading jockey Richard Johnson.

Tim was full of praise for his staff and said: "It is an achievement of which I am incredibly proud and a reflection of a large amount of work from all the team. It was also particularly pleasing to see Richard Johnson on board, as he has been a crucial part of our success since I started training.

"My congratulations to *Figaro's* owners Dave and Jodie Pearn, who have been tremendous supporters of mine since I started training."

Tim, born in Church Village, Pontypridd, in 1979, has been dubbed 'The Bookie Basher' and 'Miracle Worker' owing to his success with horses that have failed to score when trained in other yards.

His biggest success came in 2011, when he won the Scottish Grand National with the injury-dogged *Beshabar*.

He lists Aintree and Cheltenham as his favourite racecourses, even though he has yet to saddle a winner at the latter. A former Welsh champion point-to-point rider, and a graduate of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, Tim came into racing when his brother William took him point-to-pointing when he was 12 years old.

Family man Tim has been greatly assisted by his wife Abbi, who trains the point-to-pointers at Aberthin.

BRIAN LEE

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Bus talk

THE Young at Heart Club had an informative talk by a representative from the GI Bus Company at their meeting on February 13.

The proposed service will cover a large area of the Vale from Llantwit Major through 18 villages to Bridgend town centre.

This service will operate between 8.15am – 6.15pm; adult single fare £3; return £4. Child single £1.50, return £2.

Welsh concessionary pass holders will still travel free. To request a seat on this service, call freephone 0800 294113 between 0900 – 1300 Monday – Friday.

Big Fill

AT last, something is going to be done regarding the state of the roads, not only in town centres, but hopefully village lanes which seem to be neglected.

One local village area is 'Parknewydd' in Treoes, which has become dangerous, with deep potholes becoming filled with water, sometimes hiding the depth of the holes.

Clear view

MY word, what a difference a few weeks have made with the demolition of all the sheds and glasshouses at the former garden centre in Llangan.

Now that all the trees have been cut down, one has a fantastic view of the surrounding countryside.

Birthday wishes go to Young at Heart Club member Barbara Grigg.

This poem was penned by a young at Heart Club member:

Nancy has a great big dog.

His fur is black as night.

She brought him to our meeting

He was an awesome sight.

Some poodle this, he's five feet tall

A standard, she explained,

Then showed us how she clipped his fur

He sat there quite well trained.

But he didn't like the camera flash,

Growled, as if to say 'no more',

Barked loudly at the sweeping brush as we swept fur off the floor.

Yes, Bodie was in charge that night, we didn't dare to roam,

We all sat still and quiet, till Nancy took him home.

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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00092/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Installation of solar panels
Location:/Lleoliad: Court Lodge, Aberthin
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Aberthin

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00037/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed new dwelling in garden of property on site of existing tennis court
Location:/Lleoliad: The Old Vicarage, Penmark
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penmark

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00055/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of 12 new dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad: Redwood Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Boverton

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00149/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposals for a rear extension part single and part two storey
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, The Limes, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00150/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Two storey extension to side (renewal of 2009/00188/FUL)
Location:/Lleoliad: Waterway Cottage, The Limes, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00094/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replacing existing windows on the front elevation, with components that are identical in style and section to that of the existing windows. These windows will have double glazed units with black infill strip.
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, The Butts, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00107/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Attachment to the structure of an LED programmable lighting system and motion sensors and associated cabling
Location:/Lleoliad: Eastern Shelter, Eastern Promenade, Barry Island, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00138/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: External alteration works
Location:/Lleoliad: 29, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00109/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replacement of rotten timbers to support new natural stone roof tiles
Location:/Lleoliad: Shelter, The Blue Garden, UWC Atlantic College, St Donats Castle, St Donats
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade I

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/00131/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Three storey extension to side of the existing building to provide a new kitchen facility, an eight person lift to all floors, eight ensuite bedrooms, two communal day rooms, alter the existing kitchen to provide three disabled accessible WC's on the ground floor, relocation of the existing hair dressing salon, an additional bedroom and two under croft disabled parking spaces
Location:/Lleoliad: College Fields Nursing Home, College Fields Close, Barry
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2014/00106/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Internal alterations and change of use of unit from B8 to D1 non-residential institution
Location:/Lleoliad: Units 7 and 8, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 20 February, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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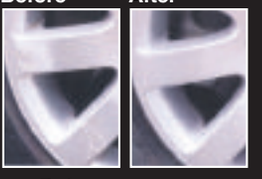
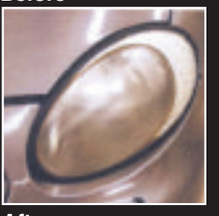


Before



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Cowbridge under-15s are back in action

COWBRIDGE under-15s finally managed to play a game after a nine week lay off due to bad weather and were desperately unlucky to lose a very competitive game against Porthcawl, played in excellent conditions.

The visitors had the better of the first half, with their lighter but speedier forwards winning good possession through Otto Guwy at the lineout and turnovers from Duncan Ace and Owain Jenkins.

Excellent running from wing Seán Davies and centre Joe Nott repeatedly put Porthcawl on the back foot and provided Cowbridge with territorial advantage.

Pressure finally told when Matthew Keating broke through a number of tackles and forced the home side to concede a scrum from which James Holder scored an excellent individual try which was converted by outside half Cai Evans.

The second half was more evenly contested and half way through the period Porthcawl opened their scoring with a penalty kick which was soon followed by a well worked try which was converted to give Porthcawl the lead, 10-7.

Cowbridge were now forced to defend for long periods but astute kicking from Cai Evans relieved the pressure and they proceeded to dominate the final few minutes.

Unfortunately an error in midfield by Cowbridge resulted in an interception by the Porthcawl wing to score underneath the posts; the conversion was successful, leaving Cowbridge with a feeling of frustration over a game they should have won.

Prominent in the Cowbridge pack were Josh Evans, Harry Hopkins and Will Couzins and in the backs Harrison Stevens and Rhys Beynon were good in defence.

MJ

Cowbridge local darts league report

ON Tuesday, February 11, Rosie McCaver, Paul Ward, Alun Evans and Jon Williams (Hare & Hounds) won the Clive Blick Trophy.

After coming from behind to win their semi-final match against Sally McCaver, Rob McCaver and John Izzard (Hare & Hounds) 2-1 they beat Linda Smith, Nick Smith and John Davies (Edmondes C) 3-0 in the final.

All the matches were played at the Old Post, the other losing semi-finalists were Maureen Fleming, Nigel Thomas and Robert Jones (Farmers Arms).

Also on the same evening, a re-scheduled league match was played in which the Old Post Ladies beat the Star Inn 5-4.

So the league standings (all teams having now played 12 matches) are: Llanharry (96 points), Edmondes B (81), Hare and Hounds (57), Cross Inn (55), Edmondes C and Edmondes A (53), Farmers Arms and Highwayman Inn (49), Old Post Ladies (27), The Star Inn (20).

The next matches are on Tuesday, February 25, when the road to finals night in the Men's Doubles and Ladies' Doubles knockout competitions begins.

The ladies will be playing at the Edmondes Arms, the men at the Farmers Arms or the Llannharry Workings Men's Club, see website for details. The first matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are welcome

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk. It is time to start thinking about next season! So if a group of you is interested in forming a team (six players minimum) and your local pub is willing to host you, get in touch and register your interest.

PJT

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CHURCHILL has recently released the results of a report into parking damage to vehicles - and their findings indicate that one in 6 drivers, have sustained damage to their vehicles while getting in and out of parking spaces.

They've dubbed the latest trend, where drivers hit either another vehicle or the kerb in an attempt to park, as 'bump-parking' – and it's on the rise.

Head of Churchill Car Insurance, Steve Barrett, said: "It could be down to a lack of confidence behind the wheel, or it could be that cars have got bigger and roads have become more congested, but for some reason, motorists seem to be struggling with parking their cars.

"So-called 'bump parking' might seem easier at the time, but if it results in some damage to their car, motorists could end up counting the cost later."

The report goes on further to announce that a fifth of all drivers avoid parallel parking completely and 17 per cent won't do it in a busy area where they know people will be watching them; 11 per cent don't park in multi-storey car parks and 8 per cent don't park when it's dark if they can help it.

This damage is leading to an average of £328 per repair, and younger drivers are most likely to be the ones to foot the bill as 26 per cent of them admit to 'bump parking'.

"We've noticed a sharp increase in damage caused by parking. But what a lot of people don't know is that you don't have to remove the entire panel to repair the damage," Paul Jarvis of ChipsAway Cowbridge says.

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Winner for Tim Vaughan

***DESTROYER DEPLOYED*, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin, easily landed the Andy Don Memorial Beginners' Chase at Fakenham last Thursday.**

Confidently ridden by top jockey Richard Johnson, the eight-year-old gelding trounced the odds on favourite *Spirit Oscar* by 15 lengths.

BRIAN LEE

Brynhill results

FEBRUARY 16:

1st Chris Phillips & Ian Jones 51 points (Back nine = 28), second Mickey Perry & Carl Williams 51 points (Back nine = 26), third Kevin Perry & Martin Rees 50 points (Back 9 = 26, Back six = 17).

Number of competitors - 35 pairs, disqualifications:- Lee Price & Joey Brookman, no indication of handicap on scorecard.

CS

Rob has his eyes on the prize!

A FREESTYLE skier from Barry has received sponsorship for a second year running from a local opticians.

Rob Taylor (29) has been provided with a year's supply of free contact lenses by the Specsavers store on Holton Road.

Rob, who had hoped to compete in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, has had to return home to Barry after suffering a knee injury on the circuit.

Rob, however, is no stranger to returning from injury. In 2009 he suffered an anterior cruciate ligament injury in his right knee and a broken shoulder, which kept him out of the sport for two years, but he recovered and went on to represent Great Britain at the 2011 World Cup in the USA.

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56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 16v Sport, 3-Dr. Met Black, CD Player, Alloys, Air Con, E/Windows, C/Locking, 68k.
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GEM sport

Wales and the Six Nations

AS FANS PREPARE FOR A LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT...

Gatland's young guns can fire again and heal the hurt against France

FLASHBACK to last year's gritty 16-6 victory in Paris and what all Welsh fans will want to see repeated tomorrow evening...tries... followed by a celebration in Cardiff!
(Pictures by Huw Evans Agency)

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

WITH the scars still not healed from the battering they received to both body and pride in a storm-swept Dublin two weeks ago, Wales go into their make or break triple championship clash with unbeaten France tomorrow evening, knowing that even their own Millennium Stadium will be no easy place to make amends for their below-par display against the Irish.

The game kicks off at the ridiculous hour of 8pm, which may be socially acceptable for those fortunate enough to be living within a 10-mile radius of Cardiff, but hardly takes account of the equally fervent mass of Welsh supporters who have to travel in from much further afield – from the fastnesses of west and north Wales – and could then face a long journey home into the small hours.

Call me old fashioned, but... this column has long bemoaned the increasing tendency in the professional age for rugby's bigwigs to place TV media schedules before the interests of their legions of paying customers – ie the loyal fans -– who nowadays are subjected to a bewildering hotch-potch of start times, dictated more by the commercial needs of broadcasters than those of the consumer.

Late night Friday kick-offs are a case in point, with Wales suffering more than most in the Six Nations fixture list.

Indeed, next year they will be entertaining England at a later time again of 8.05pm, on Friday, February 6, 2015. (It will be very interesting to see how many English fans are prepared to tolerate a long day's journey into night back down the M4, with an overnight stay in Cardiff their only other option).

Meanwhile, it is the French who again provide the late night Friday opposition for a Welsh camp desperate to prove that their uncharacteristic collapse against Ireland was simply a bad day at the office – rather than an ominous sign, as some pundits have prematurely suggested, that the success bubble has burst and that they have finally been 'found out'on the international scene.

Injuries have not helped the cause and head coach Warren Gatland, already concerned about the lack of match fitness of other key players, which was exposed in the 26-3 defeat in Dublin, delayed the announcement of his team until yesterday (Wednesday), for a final check on the walking wounded.

The whole camp know, as giant wing George North has acknowledged, that a huge collective improvement will be required to get their championship defence back on track, against a resurgent French side that may not yet have struck top form, but still have two Six Nations scalps hanging on their belt to Wales' one.

"We felt massively disappointed with the team's performance in Ireland, but we have to react. We proved (in winning the championship) last year, that despite losing one game, all is not lost," North said.

"We must remember that we have lost only two out of 12 matches in the Six Nations so far," he pointed out.

However, the challenge is formidable: last year's wooden spoonists have an impressive record against Wales on both sides of the channel, winning 11 out of 16 meetings since 2000 (including, of course, that highly contentious semi-final in the 2011 Rugby World Cup, when 14-man Wales fell to an agonizing one-point defeat (9-8) after skipper Sam Warburton received a debatable red card.

Instead, it was fortunate France who squeezed into the final showdown with the eventual winners, New Zealand, while Gatland's men, who had been hailed as the form team of the series, were left to rue a rare opportunity missed.

Wales can be encouraged by the fact that they have recorded convincing wins over the French in the three Grand Slam years – 2005, 2008, 2012; also the notoriously unpredictable French are not usually good travellers and have now lost six out of seven times on the road.

Moreover, a miserable cold February night in Cardiff may not be to Gallic taste, particularly if the Millennium Stadium faithful can create anything like the hostile atmosphere that galvanised the Welsh team and transfixed England less than a year ago.

Like the players, Gatland and his assistant coaches will be keen to prove a point or two to critics (not this one!) who have questioned whether the rugby pendulum has begun to swing away from Wales.

Tomorrow night's occasion presents a unique opportunity to set the record straight – in more ways than one – and there is no reason why this still young Wales team cannot rise to the challenge.

Few should doubt that they have not yet reached their full potential – and provided they can quickly regain self-belief (and ignore negative sounds off stage), normal service should soon be resumed.

Meanwhile, Gatland has kept faith with the bulk of his team which shows only one change, with scrum half Mike Phillips moving to the bench to make way for Rhys Webb. George North moves into the problem centre slot, with unlucky James Hook again keeping the replacement's seat warm.

WALES (v France)

Leigh Halfpenny; Alex Cuthbert, George North, Jamie Roberts, Liam Williams, Rhys Priestland, Rhys Webb; Gethin Jenkins, Richard Hibbard, Adam Jones, Luke Charteris, Alun Wyn Jones, Dan Lydiate, Sam Warburton (capt), Taulupe Faletau.

Replacements: Ken Owens, Paul James, Rhodri Jones, Jake Ball, Justin Tipuric, Mike Phillips, Dan Biggar, James Hook.